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White House amends plan to expand Pacific Marine Monument. » PAGE 14

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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$7B NOW EYED FOR SAIPAN INTEGRATED CASINO RESORT

DPL offers Best Sunshine land near Mariana Resort

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio confirmed yesterday that they have offered Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. over 20 hectares of public lands south of Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi, even as Best Sunshine's parent firm now estimates the project to cost $7.1 billion.

This is much more than Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.'s earlier commitment of $3.14 billion for its planned integrated casino resort on Saipan.

Imperial Pacific, in its Sept. 24 filing of business plan with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, announced a five-phase development project with a total of 4,252 rooms and 300 villas, 1,600 gaming tables, and 3,500 slot machines on top of a theme park and other tourism-related amenities.

"The total development costs under the business plan are currently estimated to be approximately US$7.1 billion, equivalent to approximately HK$55.1 billion…" Imperial Pacific said Tuesday.

For 2014 alone, the estimated development cost is $36 million, and then $283 million in 2015, and so forth.

DPL and Best Sunshine's plan to use Mariana Resort's current location for the Saipan casino project has been

See DPL on Page 4

A. Samoa grants amnesty to more than 4,000 aliens

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—A U.S. territory has granted immigration amnesty to more than 4,000 foreigners who are physically present in American Samoa without current lawful immigration status.

The bill signed by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga also grants amnesty to those who are lawfully in the territory but subject to specific numerical limitations on their registration by country.

The attorney general's office said the amnesty bill is the first step in immigration reforms for the U.S. territory, which controls its own borders and isn't subject

See A. SAMOA on Page 4

DeSoto gets 3 life sentences

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam man convicted of killing three Japanese tourists in a crash and stabbing rampage last year was sentenced Thursday to life in prison.

Guam Superior Court Judge Anita

See DESOTO on Page 4

AP/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Chad DeSoto speaks for the first time in his triple murder trial, at his sentencing hearing at the Superior Court of Guam in Hagatna, Guam, on Sept. 25, 2014. DeSoto said he was convicted by "vindictive anger," and his mental illness "unfairly took away everything from me."

Land lease inked for $300M Tinian casino resort

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Macau-based Alter City Group Holdings Ltd. and the CNMI Department of Public Lands signed yesterday afternoon a 152-hectare Tinian land lease agreement for a $300-million

» $640K in security deposit, advance lease payments made

casino resort that they expect to complete within 12 years. The signed lease for the three-phased project will still

See LAND on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, fourth from right, gestures as DPL receives yesterday a giant replica of a $640,000 check representing advance land lease security deposit and advance payment from Alter City Group Holdings Ltd. president and board chair Leong Kin Ian, third from left, at the signing of a lease agreement between DPL and Alter City Group for 152 hectares of land on Tinian where a $300-million casino resort will be built. Also in photo are Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from right, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, fourth from left, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, second from right, and other Alter City Group executives.

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Jury deliberations in Roberto case enters its 8th day today

With still no verdict reached yesterday in the jury trial of Raymond Borja Roberto, the 12 federal court jurors are going to resume their deliberations today, Friday, the eighth day.

The jurors are going to decide whether the 41-year-old Roberto is guilty or not of three counts of enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

The jurors were excused late afternoon yesterday and ordered to resume their deliberations today, Friday, at 8am.

On Monday, the U.S. Attorney's Office requested the court to allow them file documents under seal. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton said the documents concern a sensitive matter regarding the jury deliberations in this case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter granted the motion that same day.

Roberto is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kammuri causes widespread flooding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tropical disturbance that intensified into a tropical depression yesterday brought heavy rainfall, causing flooding and water runoff in some areas on Saipan.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 35 miles per hour, Tropical Depression Kammuri is forecast to intensify and become a tropical storm Thursday night or today, Friday.

The parking lot at Joeten Dandan building looked like a huge swimming pool yesterday morning as continuous rain the past few days clogged the drainage in the area.

Joeten staff immediately pumped out water from the parking lot as flooding nearly entered the doors at Joeten, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and other commercial establishments in the building as early as 7:30am.

The perennial flooding and water runoff near Shell gas station in Dandan brought a lot of debris to the middle of the road.

The highway in Tanapag was also flooded. Areas near Susupe Lake and some areas on Beach Road likewise experienced flooding.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Kammuri was 120 miles east-northeast of Agrihan, 310 miles north-northeast of Saipan, 320 miles north-northeast of Tinian, 390 miles north-northeast of Rota, and 440 miles north-northeast of Guam.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, Kammuri is quasi-stationary, but is expected to move northwest in the next 24 hours.

3-day term for machete-wielding woman

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio has slapped a three-day prison term against a woman who grabbed a machete and screamed at a man in As Perdido and assaulted the latter's sister over a text message telling her to stop talking.

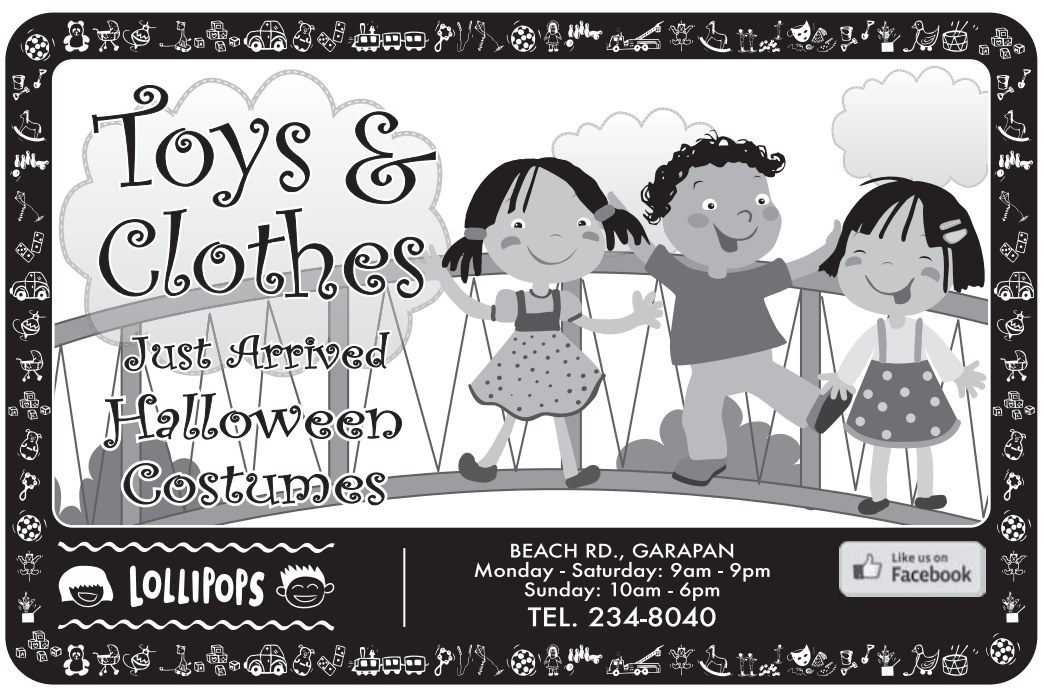
At a hearing on Tuesday, Kim-Tenorio sentenced Binar Sambile to six months in prison, all suspended except for three days of time served, for assault and battery.

Kim-Tenorio ordered the 51-year-old Sambile to complete a 50-hour community service and pay a $100 fine, $25 in court costs, and $100 in probation fees.

Sambile pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal. The disturbing the peace charge was dropped.

She was represented by assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg.

According to the plea agreement, on Aug. 10, 2014, Sambile pushed her finger on Tashina V. Mori's forehead and pulled her hair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



CNMI's last appointed AG takes oath of office today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the Senate confirmed his nomination yesterday afternoon by a vote of 8-0, Gilbert J. Birnbrich will take his oath of office today as the CNMI's last appointed attorney general until the first elected AG is sworn into office in early January.

Senators confirmed Birnbrich's nomination within an hour after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations held a public hearing on his appointment.

All attorneys and other individuals who testified at the hearing supported Birnbrich's appointment and urged senators to grant their advice and consent.

» 2 other Inos appointees confirmed

"It's an honor to have the distinguished senators, all of them, vote to approve me as attorney general. Like I said in my statement to the committee, it's a position of great responsibility and trust. I take it very seriously and I plan on fulfilling that trust to the maximum of my abilities even for the short term," Birnbrich told *Saipan Tribune* moments after senators confirmed his nomination.

Birnbrich, who attended law school at the University of Toledo College of Law graduating cum laude, told senators that his overarching goal is to turn over a functioning, fully-staffed office to the elected AG.

He said he will also be assisting the Commonwealth Election Commission in running a clear and fair election.

Those who testified in support of his nomination spoke of Birnbrich's "integrity," "intelligence" and "dedication," among other things.

Unconstitutional

Birnbrich, however, addressed some matters upfront during

See AG on Next Page

CHCC to fully implement EHR system within 2 months

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Corp.'s system that will shorten the wait time for medical records and billings will soon be fully implemented within two months, according to CHCC's chief information officer Tony Reyes.

The Electronic Health Records system will help the hospital by making information readily available and secure to authorized users at the hospitals, mostly physicians.

According to Reyes, all physicians, including private providers with admitting privileges, will be required to use the EHR.

So far the public hospital's inpatient clinic and Kagman Community Health Center are the only ones using the EHR system right now.

Reyes said the system will soon be rolled out for the outpatient clinic, which includes the emergency room, women, adult, children, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and both the Tinian and Rota health centers.

"Participation under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Medicaid Incentive program is voluntary. However, given the inherent benefits of using EHR, the CHCC is committed to the complying with the program regulations," Reyes said.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorized CMS to provide financial incentives to eligible professionals and hospitals that demonstrate "meaningful use" of certified EHR technology under two programs: the Medicare Incentive program or the Medicaid Incentive program.

Last year CHC got $1.4 million as an incentive after it demonstrated "meaningful use" of the EHR system. The next incentive, amounting to $1.1 million, is expected to come in once CHC satisfies the requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Reyes said the benefits of using the EHR is access to a patient's record; clinical documentation is easier to read and understand; documentation, coding, and billing are completed in a quick manner; and there is a built-in system safeguard verifying drug allergy and drug-to-drug interaction for medications prescribed to patients.

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Global Filipino Diaspora Marianas to be launched Sunday

On Sunday, Sept. 28,2014, the Global Filipino Diaspora Marianas will be launched at the San Antonio Parish Social Hall, San Antonio, Saipan, from 8am to 11am, said Dr. Celia B. Lamkin, organizer and founding chairperson of the Global Filipino Diaspora Marianas for the CNMI and Guam.

Diaspora is defined as the movement to, migration and scattering of any people from their original or ancestral homeland.

Based on the data from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas in 2012, there were more than 10 millions of Filipinos in diaspora, where almost 4 millions are in the United States, followed by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Canada, among others.

"The mission of the Global Filipino Diaspora Marianas is for Filipinos who have roots and ties in the Philippines and living overseas to have a better lives for ourselves and families and also to contribute to the betterment of the Philippines and the Marianas, the world, through mutual protection and support," said Lamkin.

The officers of the Global Filipino Diaspora Council are Loida Nicolas Lewis as national chairperson, Rodel Rodis as president, D Lamkin as secretary, and Ted Laguatan, spokesperson and legal counsel.

All members of the CNMI and Guam communities with Filipino blood, whether they are U.S. citizens, green card holders, contract workers, children of overseas Filipino workers, students or dependents of OFWS, among others, are encouraged to attend the launching and forum to learn more of GFDM. ***(PR)***

LAND

From Page 1

be subject to the Legislature's approval or rejection as early as next week.

At the lease signing that Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider witnessed, Alter City Group president and board chair Leong Kin Ian also handed a $640,000 check to DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio.

That represents $300,000 in security deposit and $340,000 in advance land lease payment.

Leong told CNMI officials that Alter City Group has full confidence in their ability to build the casino resort, which includes 1,500 hotel rooms, water park, 18-hole golf course, casino facilities, and related tourism amenities.

Alter City Group still has to apply for a casino license.

Alter City Group executive vice president Ken Lin and Edvon Sze, along with Leong, also vowed to work closely with the CNMI government on the project, particularly in complying with the requirements.

"What is good for Tinian should be good for the CNMI," the governor said at the ceremony, attended by his Cabinet members, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and about a dozen executives of Alter City Group.

DPL's Tenorio said the proposed project will be the "first megaresort on Tinian" given the size of the investment.

The signed land lease is for 25 years, with an option to extend for 15 more years for a total of 40 years.

The casino resort will be built on Tinian's Puntan Diablo, also known as Nasarino, the same area formerly leased by another investor that also planned to build a $300-million casino resort.

The lease signing followed a Wednesday night joint public hearing on Tinian by the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.

DPL's Tenorio said upon completion of all three phases and beginning on the 11th year, Alter City will pay a guaranteed annual amount of not less than 2.5 percent of the appraised value of land or 1 percent of business gross revenues from all sources, including casino revenues, whichever is greater.

The department also estimates the business gross revenue payment to average $574,456 a year in the 11th through the 20th year, and $718,070 in the 21st through the 25th year.

If the 15-year extension option is approved, the average annual rental payment will be $718,070 from 2040 to 2044; $861,684 from 2045 to 2049; and over $1.005 million from 2050 to 2055.

Tenorio said direct public contribution includes $5 million toward improving Tinian's airport and ferry services, among other things.

At the ceremony, the DPL secretary also spoke of new jobs, local employment, job skills training, payment of excise tax, gross business taxes, wages and other taxes.

Some two hours after the land lease signing, Alter City Group made a project briefing and presentation for dignitaries at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

DESOTO

From Page 1

Sukola sentenced Chad DeSoto to three life sentences to be served concurrently. DeSoto won't be eligible for parole, Sukola said.

The judge said a life sentence for the 22-year-old man was needed to protect the public. Sukola also said DeSoto failed to show remorse in his statement to the court.

The tourists killed were 81-year-old Kazuko Uehara and 29-year-old Rie Sugiyama, who were stabbed to death; and Hitoshi Yokota, 51, who was hit by a car and died in a hospital two days later. Another 11 people were injured, including two children.

Sukola also sentenced DeSoto to 15 years in prison for the attempted murder of 11 people. DeSoto received the maximum penalty allowed for each conviction.

Yasuhiro Uehara, whose daughter and mother-in-law were both killed in the Feb. 12, 2013 attack, said the perpetrator would have been sentenced to death in Japan.

"I'm very sorry this is not Japan and the punishment is not available here," Uehara said through an interpreter.

DeSoto, who was dressed in blue jeans and a prison-issued orange T-shirt, had pleaded not guilty by reason of mental illness. His lawyers argued he spiraled out of control into psychosis after his grandfather died and his girlfriend moved to Utah.

He read a three-page letter in court asking for mercy which cited biblical verses from St. Paul on faith, hope, and love.

DeSoto's eyes welled up as a family member read a statement from his mother asking the judge for "forgiveness and mercy upon all of us."

Prosecutors argued DeSoto planned the attack, targeting victims who resembled or symbolized his girlfriend, who had recently dumped him.

The rampage rocked the small island U.S. territory and raised questions of tourist safety in Japan and elsewhere. Guam's economy depends heavily on tourism.

DPL

From Page 1

drawing opposition.

Japanese investor Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., owner of Mariana Resort, still has four years left on its current land lease with DPL and is asking the CNMI government to allow it a new 40-year lease.

Kan Pacific, lawmakers and other community members have been asking DPL to find a way to allow both investors to exist rather than throw one out to make space for the other.

Tenorio said yesterday that DPL acknowledges public concern and the interest of the government and investors.

"We are working around the land that is presently being leased [by Mariana Resort]. Those lands now that are not committed that belongs to the public are being looked at and that's what we are negotiating for phase 1," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview during the signing on Capital Hill of a land lease agreement with another investor planning to build a $300-million casino resort on Tinian.

Phase 1 of Best Sunshine's five-phased development project includes the construction of 50 hotel rooms, 300 gaming tables and 500 slot machines—with an expected launch date of 2016.

There is no telling, however, whether the next phases of Best Sunshine's project will be accommodated in the same area or other areas.

Nearly 10 hectares of the more than 20 hectares that DPL is offering Best Sunshine was earlier offered to South Korean giant E Land, after Tan Holdings withdrew from the project site to pursue its project on a private property, also in Marpi.

Tenorio said he has already notified E Land of DPL's decision to offer the land instead to Best Sunshine. DPL issued a request for proposal to develop that tract of public land.

As of yesterday, however, DPL has yet to get a response from E Land.

"They're probably going to be disappointed but they have to understand that we are looking at the best interest of the government. We hope that there's a way to accommodate both sides. Again, we are going to have to work it out somewhere. I'm encouraging them to continue to have conversation so that nobody's feeling is hurt," Tenorio said.

E Land has yet to renovate the former The Palms Resort in San Roque, and has yet to complete the renovation of Coral Ocean Point. It also has yet to renovate Pacific Islands Club.

Tenorio said the more than 20 hectares of public lands offered to Best Sunshine includes the area on the "other side of the road going north."

The DPL secretary said they are hoping that the developer is taking DPL's recommendation to seriously look at adjoining private properties in the area.

"It takes more challenge for that. I have nothing to do with that. Public Land can only suggest, recommend that there are available private lands so let's try to extend the benefit to private owners. It's up to them to do that," he added.

Resolutions

The Senate, meanwhile, adopted yesterday a resolution recognizing and commending Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., doing business as Mariana Resort & Spa, for over 35 years of exceptional services to the CNMI people.

Senate Resolution 18-40, originally authored by Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), was adopted unanimously.

A similar House resolution commending Kan Pacific for its contributions to the CNMI is being drafted by Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). That House resolution could be followed by a resolution pushing for the government to allow Kan Pacific to enter into a new lease with DPL, Leon Guerrero said.

A. SAMOA

From Page 1

to federal law.

Local immigration laws set a quota on the number of foreigners from countries to reside and work legally in American Samoa. That had been set at 350 annually, but the amnesty law increased the total for one year only.

The provisions have cleared 2,474 people who began the immigration process under an amnesty-registration campaign started earlier this year. Also cleared were another 1,637 foreigners who were lawfully present and waiting for citizenship.

The people granted amnesty hailed from 24 nations, and neighboring Samoa had the most at 2,845. Tonga had 457 people cleared, followed by the Philippines with 446, Fiji with 101, China with 96, New Zealand with 19, Vietnam with 17, and Korea with 12.

Others receiving amnesty came from a variety of nations, including Australia, Germany, the Federated States of Micronesia, Romania, Great Britain and Taiwan.

"The people we are talking about are contributing members of society, in some cases along with their families, who have fallen into circumstances not always of their own making," Moliga said in a Tuesday letter sent to lawmakers informing them the bill has been signed.

"We owe them the opportunity to become full-fledged members of the community so they can fully partake in all community affairs and be fully counted for public planning purpose when federal assistance decisions are made arising out of our population count," he said.

Several federal funding sources are based on population counts, and many in American Samoa feel the 2010 Census count of 55,519—a 3.1 percent decline from the 2000 Census—was low.

AG

From Page 3

the public hearing, particularly on advising the Department of Public Lands not to disburse $800,000 in Managaha landing fees to pay land compensation for some 200 Saipan landowners.

While acknowledging that land compensation is long overdue, he reiterated that Saipan Local Law 18-19, which requires the payments, is "unconstitutional."

"There is a misapprehension among some that the attorney general must defend all laws passed by the Legislature. That is incorrect. I took an oath to uphold the constitution of the United States and of the CNMI. It is my belief that SLL 18-19 is unconstitutional because it infringes upon the constitutionally required functions of MPLT [Marianas Public Land Trust] to invest the revenues generated from the management and disposition of public lands for the benefit of persons of Northern Marianas descent," he said.

Birnbrich added that the issue of constitutionality of whether the Legislature may appropriate the Managaha landing fees has been lingering for 15 years.

"I did not give my advice lightly," he told senators.

He added that he consulted with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio and they believe a certified question to the Supreme Court is the appropriate method.

"It is the quickest, most efficient and least adversarial method to resolve this issue once and for all," he added.

As of yesterday, no such certified question has been submitted to the court.

Birnbrich will be AG for barely three months, from now to early January when the person that voters will elect on Nov. 4 takes his oath of office as the CNMI's first elected attorney general.

In an interview, Birnbrich said when the elected AG takes oath, he would be "very open to being with the Office of the Attorney General in some capacity" but he pointed out that it would be totally up to the elected AG.

"If he doesn't want me or he wants someone else to replace me, then that's his will and I will respect his decision," he said.

Regardless, he said he will be staying in the CNMI. He has been in the CNMI since 2003, when he started working as a law clerk for U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson. Prior to his confirmation as AG, Birnbrich was serving as deputy attorney general and acting attorney general.

He also has been actively involved in the community, including as a member of the paddling federation, a member of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization and director for the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

The governor will administer the oath of office to Birnbrich at 9am today on Capital Hill, acting press secretary Ivan Blanco said.

Other nominees

Senators also confirmed two of the governor's three appointees to the Healthcare Professional Licensing Board: re-appointee Theodore R. Parker and Dr. Tiffany Lynn Willis.

The Senate, however, deferred action on the re-appointment of Dr. Alan S. Markoff to serve on the Healthcare Professional Licensing Board, following concerns about the physician that former representative Stanley Torres raised, among other things.

CPUC decision on incentive rate contract out today

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will be presenting its decision today on the proposed incentive rate for large commercial customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The commission will be announcing its decision at the Commonwealth Development Authority's conference room at 9am.

With fiscal year 2014 nearing its end, CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. told CUC officials on Tuesday that the regulatory commission has to make its decision soon on the matter.

» Sablan: CPUC needs to speed up process before month ends

"We need to speed up this process because it is going on for too long. By October we are in the next fiscal year [and] they must come up with a decision," Sablan told Fletcher at Tuesday's board meeting.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher told the board that CPUC had decided to solicit comments from large commercial customers about the proposal.

Fletcher said the commission was supposed to come up with a decision yesterday, Sept. 25, but due to changes in CUC's court hearing yesterday, CPUC moved its meeting to today.

CUC board member Joseph Torres and CUC board vice chair Diego Songao agreed with Sablan in speeding up the process.

At their last public hearing, CPUC hearing examiner Harry Boertzel asked CPUC commissioners to table the experimental tariff rider incentive rate because they needed the input and comments of large commercial customers before approval.

Brief history

CUC's consultant, economist.com managing director Robert Young, earlier expressed concern over the amount of time CUC and CPUC has already invested in coming up with the proposal.

The standby charge was among the rate petitions CUC filed with the CPUC in July last year; it was supposed to be implemented in October 2013. The proposal was snagged by delays in succeeding months and was eventually withdrawn by CUC's new board on April 14, 2014.

At the time, CUC's then-chief financial officer Charles Warren said that CUC, CPUC, Georgetown Consulting Group, economist.com, and large commercial customers were working on an introductory rate.

Consultants for both CPUC and CUC had approved a modified incentive rate for CUC's existing commercial rate and required CUC to submit a contract by July 31, 2014. After some initial concerns were ironed out, Georgetown recommended the new rate for approval Thursday last week.

The proposed contract will cover large commercial customers that are locating, expanding, or returning their entire load to CUC's distribution system on all three islands in the CNMI.

Contract terms

Customers availing of this incentive rate must agree to remain full CUC customers for the four-year duration of the IR term.

The contract is also open to new participants for a window of four months from the time it is approved.

Commercial customers are qualified for the new rate if they have a generation capacity of 400kW or greater and generating 90 percent or more of their annual electric needs; commercial customers that expand their existing facility that results in an increase in load of 200kW or greater or expand their hotel by 75 rooms or greater; or new commercial customers with electric generation capacity of 400kW or greater.

The four-year incentive rate will provide a reduction of 8.3 cents per kWh from CUC's commercial electric base rate from the date the customer starts purchasing electricity.

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Carter reviewing CUC, EPA, CNMI settlement deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter is now reviewing a proposed settlement agreement that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the CNMI government submitted to settle concerns that EPA raised in connection with CUC's failure to comply with stipulated court orders and deadlines.

Carter told the parties late afternoon yesterday to return today, Friday, at 10am, because he wants to carefully read the proposed agreement.

EPA, CUC, and the CNMI government, through their respective lawyers, submitted their proposed settlement agreement at 3:20pm yesterday.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien told Carter that the agreement is good news to the court and to the citizens of the CNMI—that they've reached a settlement they believe resolves the receivership matter and allows funding for the stipulated order No. 2 projects, or SO2.

SO2 focuses on oil issues such as repairing and replacing infrastructure, managing tanks and pipelines, and spill prevention and response.

O'Brien asked the court to review the proposed agreement in camera due to some sensitive issues involved. In-camera submission means filed in private.

When Carter returned to the courtroom at 3:50pm after reading the proposed agreement, he lauded the parties for their "tremendous amount of effort."

Carter then asked, among other things, as to who will be signing on behalf of CUC, EPA, and the CNMI government. He also pointed out some typographical errors.

O'Brien then handed the parties' stipulation that he believes answers many of the judge's questions. After reading the stipulation, Carter agreed that the stipulation answered a lot of his questions.

Carter later told the parties of his decision to first read the draft carefully and ordered the counsels to return to court today, Friday.

The parties first appeared before Carter yesterday before noon.

At that time, O'Brien informed the judge that they have been working hard in the past few days to complete the proposed settlement agreement.

O'Brien said 25 minutes ago, they had just incorporated final details of the proposed settlement agreement. He said they need few more hours to go over the details of the proposed agreement. Carter told the parties to return at 3pm yesterday.

Aside from O'Brien, present for the U.S. government in the courtroom were U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assistant regional counsel Janet Magnuson, and EPA's environmental engineer and on-scene coordinator Michelle Rogow.

James Sirok was present as legal counsel for CUC. He was joined by CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, CUC petroleum and compliance manager Andrew Longworth, and CUC assistant petroleum compliance manager Venugopal Prabhakara.

Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Reena Patel appeared for the CNMI government.

EPA asked the court last Sept. 11 to appoint a receiver to implement some CUC projects after expressing disappointment with CUC's alleged continued violation of court orders and deadlines and the CNMI government's continued failure to fund CUC.

EPA also asked the court to find the utilities agency in breach of stipulated order and in contempt.

In EPA's motion, O'Brien said the appointment of a receiver is especially important when serious health and environmental concerns are at stake.

The receiver EPA has been requesting is supposed to be in charge of implementing SO2 projects.

Carter inspected Saturday the stalled oil pipeline project and Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

At a session after the inspection, Carter stated he is reluctant to appoint a receiver for CUC. He even complimented CUC for doing "a lot of improvements" at its facilities and operations.

Humanities Council grant deadline on Tuesday

The fourth quarter grant deadline for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Community Grants Program is this Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 5pm.

Grant applications may be delivered to the council office at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or emailed to northernmarianashumanities@gmail.com. Grant applications will not be considered officially received until they have been certified complete by staff.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered during the next review cycle.

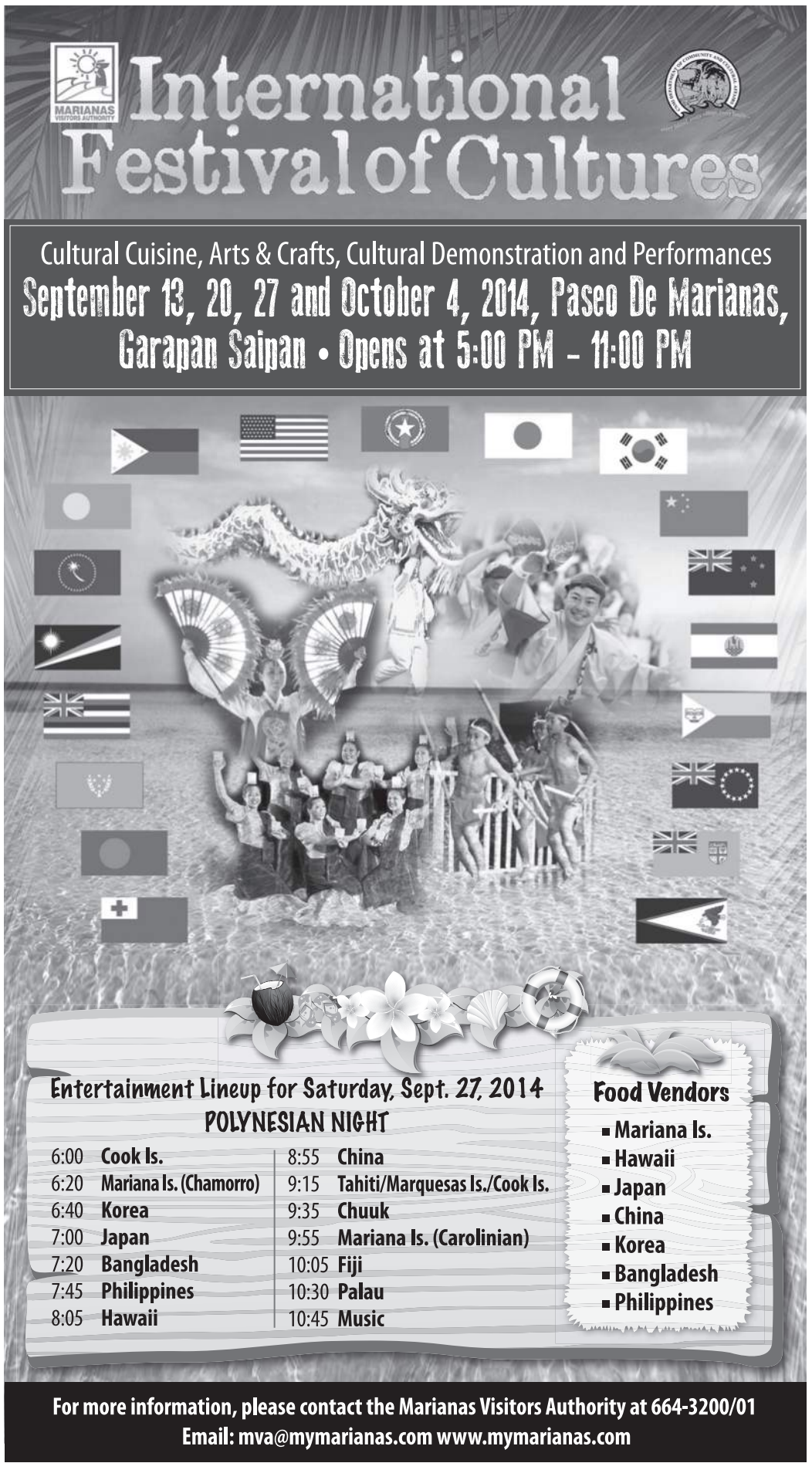
The council meets for regular sessions in January, April, July, and October each year and during each meeting, pending applications for community grants are looked at and decisions are made whether to fund or not fund particular applications.

The council awards competitive matching grants to any nonprofit organization, institution, group or ad hoc committee and the council supports a wide range of humanities projects consistent with the goals and objectives of its Strategic Master Plan.

The Strategic Master Plan covers a five-year period from 2011 to 2015 and tackles current and long-range needs and challenges confronting the council. It aims to define the council's principal goals and objectives, which is establishing priorities for programs and activities, allowing the Council to carry out its program and activities in an efficient and organized fashion.

The council's purpose is to promote understanding and appreciation of the humanities in the Northern Marianas Islands. Making use of funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council awards grants for projects focusing on the investigation and analysis of aspects of human culture and experience.

For more information about the council's grant program, visit their website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org or call 235-4785. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***



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NMC looks at overload, underload policy for instructors

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College policy on overload and underload credit hours of instructors were taken up at a Board of Regents meeting last week, with one regent calling it imperative to develop a policy and NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart describing a recent "emergency loss of personnel" as one situation that called for overloads.

"This fall, we were hit very hard when we lost three-full time faculty in one department within two weeks of the college starting. We had to at that point immediately go out and get adjuncts or pay overloads, because of that emergency loss of personnel at the last minute," Hart said.

The college later clarified that of the three faculty members, all from the Language and Humanities Department, one is still employed with college but is on medical leave, while two instructors resigned during the summer.

Jonathan Cabrera, who has served as acting principal of Saipan Southern High School, was hired, along with adjunct instructors, to ensure classes continued, according to the college.

In talking with the board, Hart clarified there was no existing policy on faculty overloads; rather, there is an "internal procedure" in place for overloads on adjunct pay that also entails how faculty or adjunct overloads are assigned.

Hart

She emphasized that adjuncts are not put on full-time capacity.

Hart noted that at one point, faculty and adjuncts were able to have a significant level of courses they could teach, but a cap of 12 credit hours for adjuncts was set so they would not be put on full-time capacity.

She said that, for overloads, full-time faculty are paid at the adjunct rate, describing this compensation as "very cost-effective for the institution."

Regent William Torres called it "imperative" that the board further explore the issue. He said the issue was not the ratio of part-time instructors over full-time instructors at the college, but an issue of "what triggers" an overload or underload.

"We need to explore this," he said.

Adjunct instructors at NMC teach a variety of classes, according to the college.

Full-time instructors are allowed to teach up to 21 credit hours, with 6 credit hours, at the instructor's discretion, allowable for overload, according to Amanda Allen, NMC's accreditation liaison officer.

The college's new addition, Cabrera, was lauded for his teaching experience, impressive knowledge, and administrative background, by Barbara Merfalen, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services.

"We are extremely happy to welcome Jonathan to our instructional team at the college," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Currently, other full time instructors at the Language and Humanities Department are Lek Algaier, Dr. Kimberly Bunt-Anderson, Ajani Burell, Stephanie Farrier, Brady Hammond, Marcelo Gonzalez, Michael Nurmi, and Rachel Petersen.

Probable cause found to charge man in domestic violence case

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against a man who allegedly pushed his girlfriend and poked her face with his finger when he found her outside their house talking to their neighbor in Dandan.

At a preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery and disturbing the peace may have been committed and that Michael Lee Borja may have committed the offenses.

Wiseman ordered the 35-year-old Borja to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be on Sept. 29, which is the defendant's birthday.

Police detective Flora Aguon testified for the government at the hearing.

Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty appeared for the government.

Wiseman learned that Borja has had several previous temporary restraining orders for alleged domestic violence from his past relationship with girlfriends.

Aguon stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched last Sept. 17 at 2:52am to a residence in Dandan where a domestic violence was reported.

The girlfriend alleged that Borja pushed her twice, causing her to fall to the floor. He allegedly repeatedly asked her what she was doing outside the house and then poked her face with his finger. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Thank You!

Lawmakers: Vote 'yes' to HLI 18-12; PSS in 'critical situation'

The Public School System is in a critical situation that it needs support in its effort to address the burgeoning teacher-student ratio, hiring of highly qualified teachers, acquisition of additional instructional materials and resources, and the repair, renovation and modernization of its aging facilities.

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives reaffirmed their unified support yesterday for House Legislative Initiative 18-12, which will ensure permanency in the funding level of the school district.

"Anyone that is interested or remotely interested in supporting our children should support [H.L.I. 18-12]. I am not saying this initiative is the best solution for our school system but whatever we can do to increase the funding level of PSS should be supported," said Sen. Pete P. Reyes, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication.

"Perhaps there could be more that we should do for public schools, for our public school students, for our public school teachers and staff, for our classrooms [because] our [PSS] is now at a critical juncture more than ever," adds Reyes, a strong public education advocate.

Last July, both legislative chambers unanimously passed H.L.I. 18-12 and it will now be on the ballot this November.

Authored by Rep. Roman Benavente, H.L.I. 18-12 raises the minimum 15 percent funding level for PSS from government revenue sources for appropriation, to 25 percent. If voters approve H.L.I. 18-12, this will "correct" this 29-year-old constitutional mandate.

'Funding does not meet cost'

In today's changing education landscape, the level of funding (and its fluctuation) "no longer reflects the actual cost of providing public education services," according to Benavente.

"When I authored the initiative, we [House Committee on Education, Health and Welfare] took primary consideration that there has been a downward trend in public education funding. By looking at this trend, it is not commensurate with the growing student enrollment and critical needs of PSS, which continue to grow at a rapid pace," he noted.

The level of enrollment for all public elementary and secondary schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota continue to increase: from around 9,000 in 2000 to today's nearly 11,000 total.

"Because of economic issues, a lot of our families who used to afford to send their children to private schools have now transitioned to public schools, and in effect it increases the [PSS] enrollment, increases the demand for classroom teachers," said Benavente.

Benavente is also a former chairman of the Board of Education, the policymaking body of the school district.

The cost and expenses in providing services to our children is evident and PSS continue to carry this year after year, the author noted.

Along with increasing student enrollment, PSS' 19 campuses are aging and need immediate major repairs as cited by the Office of Insular Affairs' 2013 report of its Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms.

The same report also revealed that PSS has an estimated $11.3 million in accrued deferred maintenance that must be urgently addressed. Further delay of the plans will add up to a costly and complex problem of maintaining the structural integrity of all public school facilities.

"This impacts PSS operation because the funding level PSS continues to receive is most of the time lower," Benavente explained. "Now is the time…that this should be adjusted."

Disparity

Separately, Senate Ways and Means Committee chair Jovita Taimanao said the public has to be made aware that there is disparity in funding support and with PSS' ability to move forward in meeting its mandate.

In fact, when both legislative chambers unanimously endorsed H.L.I. 18-12, it was "highlighting the importance that not a single child must be left behind" when we are talking about public education.

"This is the key motivating [reason] why we all have to support PSS. Other than we know there is commitment and focus for effective student/classroom learning, they are doing more given [with] the challenges and difficulties brought by lack of enough funding and resources," Taimanao said.

One particular area of concern is the teacher-student ratio.

"The teacher-student ratio is at an alarming level now. When we were presented with the report by the Board of Education [chair] Herman Guerrero and [Education] Commissioner Dr. [Rita] Sablan, we realized that this is actually happening," Taimanao admitted. "If we all visit our public schools today, we can actually see that overcrowding is wearing down both our students and teachers."

At the opening of the new school year, the PSS' student-teacher ratio was initially pegged at an average of 30 students to 1 teacher per classroom. In some public schools, the ratio is at 37:1.

This figure is higher than the BOE-mandated policy of 25:1.

"We at the Senate are really very concerned of the situation and this is why we are supporting H.L.I. 18-12," she added.

In agreeing with Taimanao, Reyes explained that throughout the years, PSS continue to grow in the services and opportunities it provides its students.

"PSS is growing at a rate that the funding is not catching up with the growth. It is not at par with its current needs… and it needs to be given some permanency in the budget so that PSS does not need to justify something that is already justified and evident," Reyes said. "And to the critics or who are opposed to this, we all have to understand that [H.L.I. 18-12] is about the interest of public school children. This is not about Pete Reyes or any members of the Legislature. It is about supporting education. You cannot just say, 'I am almost supporting this': you have to make decision: are you supporting it or not?"

"This is not a complex situation that our public schools has to come back again and again and beg for money that is entitled to our children," Reyes added. ***(PSS)***

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2015)

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. **Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA).**

Spawnbreezie to spice up Tinian with free concert

Tinian residents will be getting a very special treat on Oct. 1, when nationally known Polynesian recording artist Spawnbreezie makes a stopover for a one-night show as part of his first-ever Mariana Islands tour.

The singer will be giving a free concert on Wednesday night at the fiesta grounds right next to Kammer Beach, the site of the annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival and the island's San Jose Fiesta.

Spawnbreezie has been busy over the last several weeks promoting his newest album, "Sincerely Dizzo" all over the Pacific, and he is looking forward to bringing his unique blend of R&B, hip-hop, and island music to his fans on Tinian, an island known in world history for its role to end World War II, along with its ever spicy "donni sali" peppers. Residents young and old alike will be entertained with new cuts from Spawnbreezie's latest CD, along with such radio staples as *Oh My Goodness, Don't Let Go*, and the ever catchy *I'm in Love*.

When asked why the Midwest-based singer wanted to do a show on Tinian, manager Frank Aguon said, "Simple, it's about bringing the music to the people. Spawnbreezie enjoys an amazing connection with his fans, and he tries all he can to give them a show they will never forget every single time. And if it means going far, far away to do it, he'll do it. We are very excited to come to Tinian and meet the friendly people down there."

In an audio and video clip posted online, Spawnbreezie recently mentioned his appreciation to all his fans in the Marianas by saying, "I want to send a big 'thank you' to all the fans, and all the promoters and supporters that are giving me the opportunity to go out there to perform for all of you beautiful people. It's been a long time coming, it's long overdue and I'm excited."

This will be the second of the singer's advertised appearances, with a show in Guam on Sept. 27 at the Music Life Concert Series, and a performance on Saipan on Oct. 3 as part of the United Nesia Fest Concert Series.

For his part, event promoter and president of United Nesia (Marianas Chapter) Rob Travilla was surprised at the buzz the event generated once it was announced.

"As soon as we broke the news about the free show, everyone on social media, on the news, it's been crazy. We've even had people mentioning about going to this show if they can't make it to the Saipan show," he said. "But on the real tip, this is going to be special for the people of Tinian, we're excited it's going down, not only to bring a main event act like Spawnbreezie to an island that definitely deserves a good show, but also to expose the one-of-a-kind talent Tinian has been developing. The best of the Pacific will definitely be on display for all to see on Wednesday night, thank you to all the sponsors as well as the performers who will grace the grounds that night, and thank you to Tinian! I flew out there a few weeks ago to walk through the event site and I got nothing but love and hospitality. You do not want to miss this show, and since it's free there's no reason you won't be there!"

The doors open at 5pm, and will also feature Tinian-born talent kicking things off, such as YouTube sensation Nikita Mendiola, Nikki Ayuyu, Nate Ada, and Joshua Q. Castro who recently returned from a monthlong tour in the U.S. mainland. ***(PR)***

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

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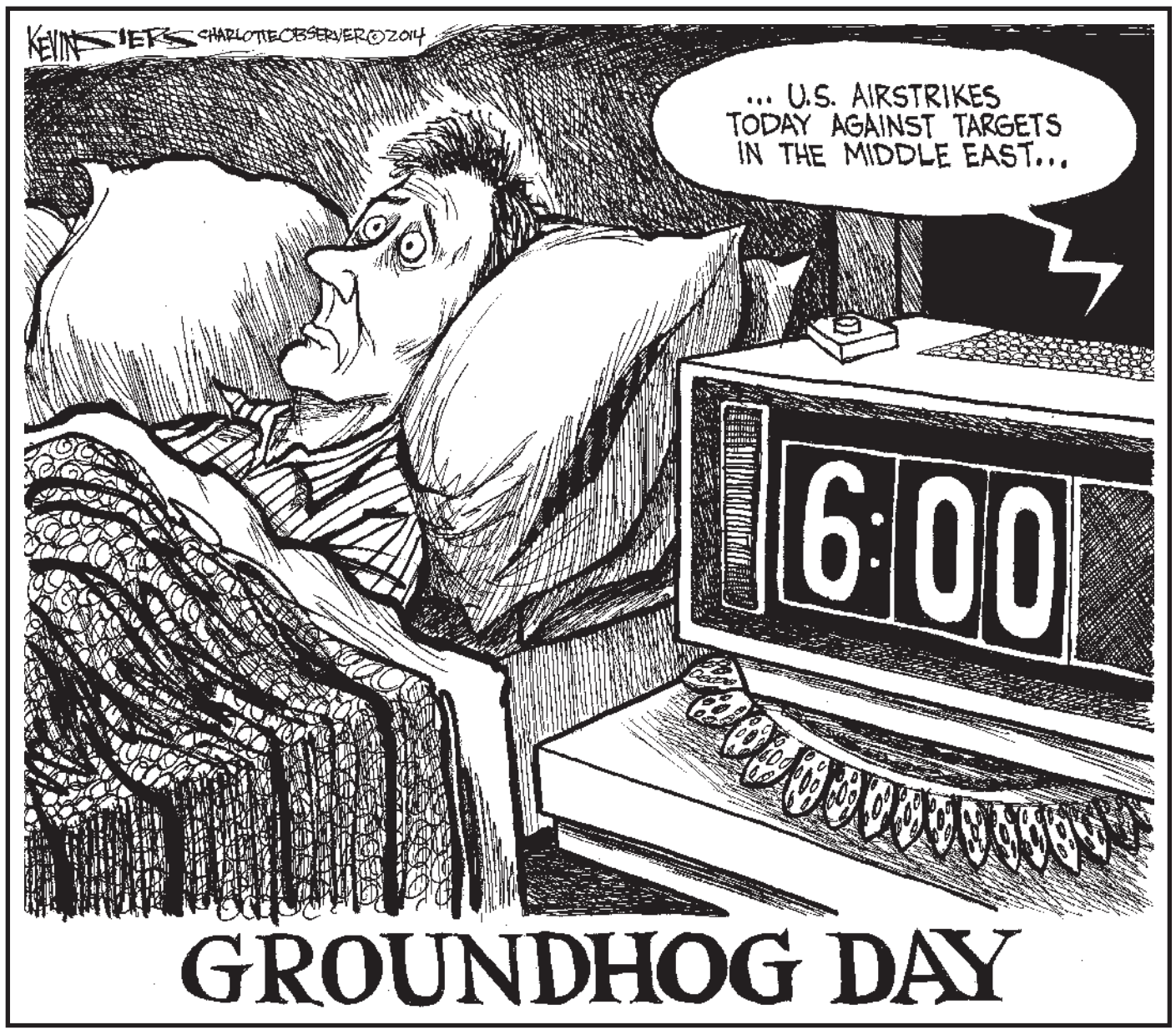


Who should ensure our youth's allegiance?

ANNE MICHAUD
Newsday

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday Opinion and a member of the Newsday *editorial board. Readers may send her email at anne.michaud@newsday.com.*

A column I wrote last week about 100 or so Americans fighting on the side of the Islamic State group drew dozens of passionate responses. People viewed it as an opportunity to weigh in on what they believe is wrong with our society.

A number agreed with my analysis: that the generation that's running things—let's say those 40 and older—is too preoccupied with winning political battles to fix anything. We're not concerned with creating jobs or even volunteer corps that would help young people travel from adolescent dependence to adult autonomy.

I said we're failing to inspire rising generations, and some young people don't see much of a future. Thirsty for help and guidance, some are entrapped by the mirage of meaning and purpose of jihad.

The solutions I offered are programs like the Peace Corps, GI Bill, Teach for America or Eleanor Roosevelt's National Youth Administration. But it's not all about government programs, as I said. As adults, we should ask kids about themselves and share our experiences, passions and dreams. I said I appreciate people like interdisciplinary artist Rob Goldman, who's prompting teenagers to think about why they matter in the world.

In response, a woman left me an anonymous voice mail, saying she loved the column and wished it had been on the front page.

Several others mentioned church, God and family. They said that's where children must learn values and meaning.

"As a former teacher of primary school children for 26 years, I know the importance of inspiration, encouragement and guidance," wrote New Yorker Ann Stein. "For a myriad reasons, there are too many young people who are not receiving this, either from their parents, who have difficulties with their own lives, or from a society that cannot offer them the values and opportunities that they need."

Others weren't so forgiving of parents. "Some parents expect the schools and government to take over that role," wrote John Hannon. "Many families have checked out emotionally or financially."

Paul LaMaster, a reader from Florida, blamed babies "born without a father."

The response I found most disturbing was the idea that our society no longer has any good values to pass along to new generations. "Have you considered that we're communicating our values—our true values—all too well, and that's why kids are running off to join our enemies?" asked Florida reader Doug Hyden.

He didn't elaborate, but I'm going to take the liberty here of quoting a frequent Newsday contributor, Paul Manton. He wrote, "Americans have traveled light years away from the idea of a New Jersusalem and Christian piety . . . the vision of a New Athens of intellectual enlightenment envisioned by the Founding Fathers, and the liberator of oppressed nations that (our country) was in 1945. They now spend more money on booze, drugs, pornography, tobacco, tattoos, junk food, mindless gadgets, and body piercings than many countries spend on teaching their better-educated children . . . ."

I'm not quite as pessimistic as that. But each one of us must own our responsibility for living and communicating our values, instead of blaming some faceless "other" that's ruining America—be it to-

See WHO on Next Page

China's comeback kids

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

China faces a spirit issue. Its goals since 1978 when Deng Xiaoping left ideology for a guided free market economy—clearly accepting that some folks will get rich before others—has been attained. In just over 30 years, advances in science and technology fueled industrialization, along with a judicious nursing of its military might, leaving China on top of the development heap while groping for its soul.

Development in the global race is on to increase GDP per capita at a pace to fuel a consumption-production system at the expense of nature and people. This purely economic definition is doing much harm to the world's natural systems and the ever-continuing creation of a democratic rather than a consumer culture. China's soul hit a vacuum groping for role models.

Today, the comeback candidates are Christ, Mao, and the Buddha.

The Chinese who sees comfort in the Christ has the underground house churches that attract devotion because they defy authority, an understandable reaction. Pastor pounded pulpits trained to wear evangelical enthusiasm up their sleeves are zealously tied to the emotional allure of a cultic "savior" that takes away the "sins of the world" through communal fellowship that gathers adherents warmheartedly.

The communal comfort in Christianity fits into the Confucian ethos of family and the ethics that comes along. Its metaphors and belief-nets remain in the regal language of a redeemer under a defunct three-story universe, a "belief" in a heaven in the sky, and a penal colony under; it appeals to the elderly's superstition but the secular and scientific young, at best, say, "huh?"

Mao is a tolerated uncle whose centralized dictates belong to, by his own measure, the 30 percent of his mistakes, but his dialectics aligns with the 70 percent that was right. It defined the conflict then prevailing between elite and worker, urban and rural, learned and the *hoi polloi,* though it hardly fits in the current harmonizing and collaborative thrust of the "reform and opening up" era.

The contradiction metaphor got the Chinese mind around the reality of differing perspectives, and Mao would have been regarded an undisputed statesman had he allowed his "a thousand flowers bloom" evolve into *vive le difference* rather than the divisive and humiliating confrontational deterioration of the Cultural Revolution.

Ironically, Mao represents recognition of the virtue of individual genius before it is straitjacketed into the commune. The assertive selfhood he exhibited is dubbed as a personality cult by the West, gobbled up by prejudiced contra Sino, but revered from a distance as his name is invoked, though without bothering with the details. The halls of academia quickly discard the mention of his name.

Which brings us to the Buddha. If Jesus belongs to the Ptolemaic cosmology of pre-Nikolaj Kopernik, and Mao brought down the elitist pretensions of the *illuminati* of academy to realistic levels, the saffron Buddha saunters with Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile. Buddhists skew Christian theistic escapism and Mao's dichotomy between decadent and progressive forces, favoring a psychology of a mind-full self.

Buddhists meditate not to escape from any situation, or the challenges of any given location, but to engage in the depths of the bottomless abyss of understanding one's consciousness. This lends itself to the Sino orientation of rootedness in space rather than the Euro-journey in time. The Buddhists, however, tend to be abstract in their mindfulness against the practical activism that is a demand of cognition.

Pope Francis' willingness to dialogue with China's officially sanctioned Christian Church might be at the root of the recent pronouncement that Beijing will not shy away from creating its own Christianity with its own "Chinese characteristics," similar to its socialist economics and communal politics of reform and opening up.

Kung Fu Tzu (Confucius) is not being dismissed. His ethos will be around awhile but making a comeback kid out of Jesus, Mao Zedong, or the Buddha is a backward step as each tradition inadequately encompasses China's broiling spiritual hunger.

Since 1968, we minded exploited and battered Mother Earth, cognizant of her gracious support of the human specie. We segued into a secular spirituality without the hocus-pocus of theism though not a surrendered devotion to "all there is." It was rather a decision to be free, to make choices, and own up to one's decisions. We took to the ancient art of mindfulness and plumbed the depths of engagement in human affairs, like the recent Peoples Climate March, allowing Mother Earth's wellbeing a fighting chance.

In the care of Mother Earth will China finds its soul.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My bookworm has a battery

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Here's a conversation-starter that's got so many miles on it they park it in the cliché section: "If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have one book, what book would you chose?"

Incidentally, I've never understood the "desert" angle on that. Would the answer be any different if the island was covered in jungle? Maybe I just don't have a head for clichés.

But jungle or not, it's something to consider on Saipan, where most people I've known, including voracious readers, have opted not to accumulate a large library. Saipan brings out the minimalist instincts. Tropical living probably does that in general, and the Commonwealth's shaky economic ground certainly emphasizes the virtues of being fleet-footed, and, reciprocally, the pitfalls of being bogged down.

Nothing will bog you down like books will. That's a fact no matter where you are. There's intellectual capital behind the physical mass, and the interaction spins a strong field of inertia.

I recently helped a relative downsize from a house to a small apartment. He had thousands of books in the house, but for logistical reasons he had to limit himself to just one box of books for the move.

I didn't envy the guy having to make the choice. This is a case where fast-thinking and slow-thinking are bound to have different results. Which is to say, you could mull this decision for five minutes, or for five days, or for five months, and you'd probably come up with a different answer every time.

While the one-book-on-a-desert-island gig never entertained me, I started wondering which items from my library would survive a brutal culling down to just one box.

I've since worked and reworked the list a few times and now I think it's pretty solid. I don't know why the exercise interests me, but, well, it does. It might interest you, too: For many *Tribune* readers, of all the things you've owned, books might be some of the most painful things to part with. So, give it a shot, and contemplate what you'd put in the box.

This whole thing opens the door to a broader matter, which is that being attached to anything can be a recipe for grief, since we can't hold it without also holding the prospect of its eventual loss.

If that's a philosophical bummer, there is a philosophical counterpoint. The sages of the East point out that after you use a boat to cross a river, it's better to simply leave the boat on the shore as you continue your journey. By contrast, dragging the boat behind you will merely impede your progress. If nothing else, this outlook has inspired me to de-clutter my shelves by throwing out a lot of books that, having been read and absorbed, have little more to offer than the physical reassurance of their presence.

Of course, that whole boat analogy is really concerned with more than the realm of tangible possessions, but you can always count on me to reduce the profound to something mundane and material.

The elephant in the room is the electronics revolution. Storage media the size of your fingernail can hold thousands of books nowadays.

It seems that anything that can be digitized will be digitized. Consider the stuff that used to dwell on physical media that has migrated, or is migrating, to the digital realm: office documents, music, movies, newspapers, magazines, photos, maps, airline tickets, medical prescriptions, bills, bank statements, and so on.

Heck, even money is essentially electronic these days, moved at the push of a button between virtual accounts.

Books, of course, are well along in this process, as anyone seeing Kindle offerings at Amazon.com can attest. What will happen to books that don't make the leap to a digital format? Maybe, like music that didn't make the leap, they'll just fade away. People won't miss what they don't see.

Still, overall, digitation is certainly a boon for Saipan residents, since it makes it easier to live lightly and to remain nimble. Younger generations will wonder why the oldsters (including me) insist on clinging to their fading chunks of paper and ink. So I guess the sun will eventually set on the one-book-on-a-desert-island thing, and it won't even be worth the effort to explain why we used to talk about it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A little goes a long way

An old man sits by the Kiosku Memorial or stands by the entrance of the post office asking for spare change. He explains he has no food. More importantly, he has no money for medicine for his crusted feet. He begs for water as he looks tired panhandling all day. My wife bought him the largest bottled water at Kevin's Department Store. He thanks my wife and I and he was on his way.

Times before this, I would have given spare change whenever I can. I am not wealthy but I do what I can. If I don't give him anything, I get this guilt feeling. Some say that it is not our obligation. I know it's not but it does not hurt to do something good either. If you really don't have anything to spare, just be honest and he'll walk away. You could tell who really needs money or food. You know a drunk when you see one. The Salvation Army does wonders but they too can only do so much.

Please give this man what you can as he would probably do the same if he is in our shoes. Times in our economy are tough but I am sure you could spare something for him or someone else. Just wanted to share this story as I believe it is important for people to know that we all have a heart to help others. Do care, please spare.

Vince Go Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

WHO

From Page 10

day's lax parents, the fringe that parrots Rush Limbaugh, or "liberals" who are "ashamed" to teach America's history of "overcoming obstacles using freedom and the Constitution," in the words of Joel Thornton of Tallahassee, Florida.

Goldman told me that the feedback he received was that my column was wrong to associate teenagers abusing drugs with traitors joining the Islamic State in the Middle East. Perhaps. What ties them together for me is the disaffection of youth.

And what I want to know is, what are we each going to do, personally, to change that?

The most coveted seat!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We are at the crossroads to determining the future of these isles this November. The option is either shift to new leadership or prolong the status quo. There's about 34 days left before we step forward to making that final determination.

Indeed, we've followed and listened to gubernatorial tandems make their pitch. A lot of what has been expressed is the usual garbage that doesn't offer any sense of hope for brighter tomorrows. Their radar screen is blurred, even the person who designed the modern social contraption is confused, can't decipher anything on it.

Who among the four is equipped with a vision and value system poised to take the CNMI out of the slavery of abject misery in poverty? I've heard two of the four discuss the essence of lasting investments where we eventually scaffold future public services with sufficient funds, implement 100 percent renewable energy, reduction in healthcare cost to cash-balanced retirement programs.

Indeed, many of us have spent hours on end trying to endure the hardship fostered by the lack of vision and leadership. This has gone on far enough. Hope our vivid daily experience doesn't give memory a slippery hold. Must bite the bullet proactively for real time change!

It's time to reset our buttons of determination with conviction to help our people by taking the proverbial first step in a thousand-mile journey replacing political dinosaurs. We owe it to our children. We owe them brighter and secured tomorrows. We must responsibly do it on the 4th of November.

Fiduciary literacy a must!

It's vital for the elected elite to understand that they have gone AWOL on fiduciary literacy. It doesn't have a clear understanding that a democratic republic is what Lincoln famously declared a government "of the people, for the people and by the people."

You failed "we the people" when you decided to trash their participation on the casino law for reasons only you know, suspiciously. You exceeded the limits in the exercise of power railroading an issue that would eventually destroy the cultural traditions of these isles.

Obviously, you need a refresher course on fiduciary literacy. Not only did you usurp the rights of "we the people" but displayed dysfunctional disposition on a matter soundly shot down twice via direct representation or plebiscite by "we the people." You took a leap of arrogance and incoherence that we would treat with reciprocity this November! Trust me, we're ready for it.

Fletcher's culpability

The $23 million owed CUC by the NMI government didn't just pop out like Jack-In-Box a day or so ago. It goes back several years and I'm sure the CUC boss knows about it. Did he push for payment in recent past? Or is he fearful of falling out of the grace of his boss on the hill? Obviously, there's no room for this incompetency! Fletcher is equally culpable of allowing this mess to pile up unnecessarily.

Redundancy

You listen to political dinosaurs spout on issues they've skipped by simply failing fiduciary responsibility saying, "Something must be done." It pacifies our browbeaten faces temporarily, hearing dinosaurs threatening to pull their heads out of the sand of self-imposed ignorance. For instance:

- High power rates: "Something must be done!"
- High health premiums: "Something must be done!"
- Health deductibles: "Something must be done!"
- Increased cost of living: "Something must be done!"
- Underemployment of 52 percent: "Something must be done!"
- Salaries stuck for 20 years: "Something must be done!"
- Hardship all over the NMI: "Something must be done!"

Interesting that as they spout a woefully redundant "do-nothing" sound bite, they simply turn around and kick the can down Capital Hill, singing, "In the midnight hour."

Candy shops: Some government employees are out on orders to shut down candy stores across the archipelago. "We're starting with the Settlement Fund, CUC, CHC and PSS." Is the NMI really literally bankrupt or is it only on paper? Did I say "…only on paper?"

In a disastrous economy

Money! It's what we talk about all day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It's something some folks have more than others. I am sure most folks are without it, daily.

You know what it is—currency. You've disposed of it in umpteen ways—transactions. At day's end your wallet is empty—bankruptcy.

For future retirees who are basically non-retirees in conventional wisdom, you quiz what happens when you leave service and there's nothing to look forward to for familial maintenance.

For those marching into their golden years, you ponder if the retirement fund (settlement fund) would survive beyond 2019 or would it recede into the tidal shift of bankruptcy. You settle for a simple answer: the only thing certain is uncertainty! But there's no avoiding the fact that you need about 60-85 percent of your total household income today to sustain your current lifestyle. Is this income anywhere in sight?

For folks who are still actively employed, you quiz if your income is sufficient to cover incidental cost of college education for your kids while paying for the first family home and other obligations.

Troubling too that of the entire NMI workforce, some 52 percent are underemployed. These are folks with jobs earning federal definition of poverty income level of $15K to $24K for a family of four. Definitely, one could only assume that they live paycheck to paycheck, whose income has remained stagnant for 20 years too. This setback while everything else has gone up by at least 24 percent or more.

Have you seriously thought of your fate when you hit your golden years? Did you know that most of us would sail into the sunset after suffering a massive heart attack or stroke? Are you prepared for renal or kidney failure, thus a three times a week visit to the dialysis center? I suppose uncertainty is the only interesting surprise these days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

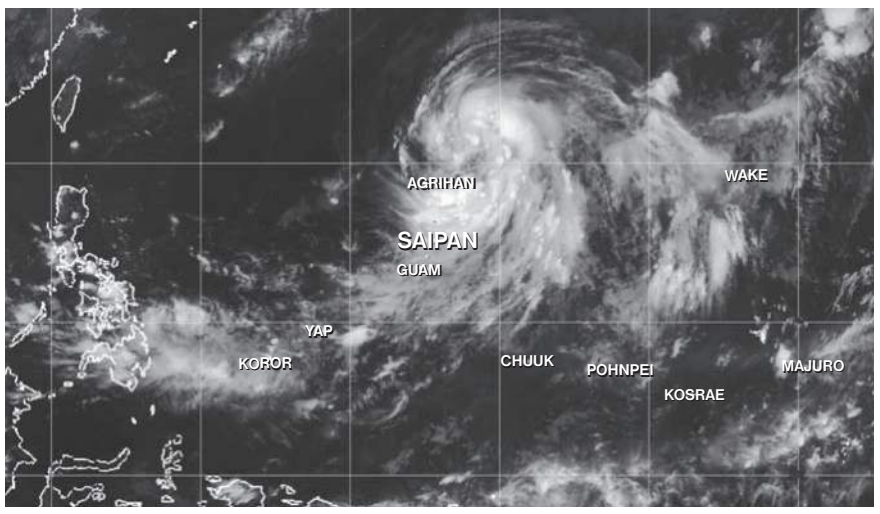
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲77	▼54
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲85	▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲86	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼65
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲80	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲71	▼52
San Francisco	Showers	▲68	▼60
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼59
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼61
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Kammuri (17W) is centered about 310 miles north-northeast of Saipan at 19N148 quasistationary with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in the area bounded by 11N144E to 16N142E to 24N147E to 22N154E to 15N155E to 12N148E back to 11N144E including the Mariana Islands. For more information on Kammuri, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends from 12N130E to 14N140E to the center of Tropical Depression Kammuri. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough across Palau and Yap between 6N and 10N from 130E to 140E. Convergent low-level flow east of Kammuri is producing scattered showers west of Wake Island between 19N and 22N from 155E to 164E. A weak surface trough is generating scattered showers well north of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles either side of a line from 9N159E to 16N164E. A surface trough stretches from 1N170E to 8N176E. Scattered showers are present east of a line from 1N165E to 10N173E including Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:26 AM	7:28 PM
Saturday	8:17 AM	8:12 PM
Sunday	9:09 AM	8:58 PM
Monday	10:03 AM	9:48 PM
Tuesday	10:58 AM	10:41 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	4:00am	8:00am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via Guam
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via Guam
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via Guam
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	2, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:20am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:50am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:40pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:05pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:35pm	1,5 via Guam
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:20pm	1, 5 via Guam
DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:50pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:35pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:20pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:40am	2:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:35pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:20pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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White House amends plan to expand Pacific Marine Monument

HONOLULU—A plan announced in June to vastly expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument—and in turn prohibit commercial fishing therein—has been amended to better accommodate economically vital fishing industries for Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Islands.

Following a West Wing meeting joining representatives of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and the Hawaii longline fishing industry with Counselor to the President John Podesta and White House Council on Environmental Quality acting chair Mike Boots, and in the wake of public criticism and media attention, the White House announced yesterday a revised plan for the President's expansion of the Marine Monument.

In the months since the June 17 announcement to expand the size of the Marine Monument tenfold, the Council; the governors of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the American Samoa and CNMI legislatures; U.S. longline and purse-seine fishermen; tuna cannery representatives; and marine science experts have expressed deep concerns regarding the shortcomings of the proposed expansion. According to those speaking out in opposition, the initial plan for expansion disregarded essential local fishing industries and provided negligible gains for conservation. The revised plan will expand the monument to include the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones surrounding Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island and Wake Island, but will not expand the existing 50-mile prohibitions on fishing around Howland and Baker Islands and Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef.

The Council expresses appreciation to President Barack Obama for considering the economic and cultural concerns of American citizens, particularly in Hawaii and American Samoa, who will be most affected by the expansion.

According to the Council, these revisions will allow U.S. fishermen to continue their operations within traditional fishing grounds under existing regulations in 35 percent of the U.S. exclusive economic zone around the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands, but will remove them completely in 65 percent of the U.S. EEZ around these islands. "Our U.S. Pacific Island fishermen already comply with the strictest regulations in the world," said Kitty Simonds, Council executive director.

She added, "We appreciate the White House's compromise on a monument expansion that could have devastated the region's fisheries and communities without notable environmental benefits. We now look to see how this declaration will be achieved in practice, beyond paper and politics, and hope that the U.S. Coast Guard will use additional enforcement funds to patrol U.S. waters as a first priority."

Still, fishing industry representatives have spoken publicly of their concerns for the lack of an environmental and public review process, proper representation and transparency in the decision-making affecting monument expansion.

According to the Council, regional experts and industry representatives were not consulted in advance of the initial announcement and only minimally during the process leading up to yesterday's announcement.

Simonds remarked: "The U.S. Pacific Islands came together as a united regional voice on this issue and that speaks to the anxiety at the prospect of an immense expansion of a Presidential monument with little to no local consultation. All of the marine national monuments are in the U.S. Pacific Islands. We account for about 76 percent of the marine protected areas in the United States and virtually all of the nation's no-take MPAs. Congress has curtailed further use of presidential monument proclamation authority in Alaska and Wyoming, and Congress should similarly bar further national marine monument proclamations in Hawaii and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands."

Simonds said that the Council anticipates working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the revised fishing regulations for the expanded monument, as it has for the other marine national monuments.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas. For more information, visit www.wpcouncil.org, email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov, phone (808) 522-8220 or fax (808) 522-8226. ***(WPRFMC)***

Your Child at 3 Years

Child's Name _____ Child's Age _____ Today's Date _____

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by his or her 3rd birthday. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional
- ❑ Copies adults and friends
- ❑ Shows affection for friends without prompting
- ❑ Takes turns in games
- ❑ Shows concern for a crying friend
- ❑ Understands the idea of "mine" and "his" or "hers"
- ❑ Shows a wide range of emotions
- ❑ Separates easily from mom and dad
- ❑ May get upset with major changes in routine
- ❑ Dresses and undresses self

Language/Communication
- ❑ Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps
- ❑ Can name most familiar things
- ❑ Understands words like "in," "on," and "under"
- ❑ Says first name, age, and sex
- ❑ Names a friend
- ❑ Says words like "I," "me," "we," and "you" and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)
- ❑ Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time
- ❑ Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)
- ❑ Can work toys with buttons, levers, and moving parts
- ❑ Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people
- ❑ Does puzzles with 3 or 4 pieces
- ❑ Understands what "two" means
- ❑ Copies a circle with pencil or crayon
- ❑ Turns book pages one at a time
- ❑ Builds towers of more than 6 blocks
- ❑ Screws and unscrews jar lids or turns door handle

Movement/Physical Development
- ❑ Climbs well
- ❑ Runs easily
- ❑ Pedals a tricycle (3-wheel bike)
- ❑ Walks up and down stairs, one foot on each step

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:
- ❑ Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- ❑ Drools or has very unclear speech
- ❑ Can't work simple toys (such as peg boards, simple puzzles, turning handle)
- ❑ Doesn't speak in sentences
- ❑ Doesn't understand simple instructions
- ❑ Doesn't play pretend or make-believe
- ❑ Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys
- ❑ Doesn't make eye contact
- ❑ Loses skills he once had

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your local public school. For more information, go to **www.cdc.gov/concerned** or call **1-800-CDC-INFO.**

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4841/42/43/44

Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.

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Learn the Signs. Act Early.

'Changing immigration policy is always difficult'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following statement yesterday in response to a notice by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that the E-2 CNMI investor visa program is scheduled to expire on Dec. 31. USCIS also issued an advisory that the current exemption for the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam from the national limit on the number of H visas for temporary workers was expiring at the end of this year too. Both programs were established by U.S. Public Law 110-229 with the end-date set by that law.

"USCIS is warning E-2 CNMI investors and, also, businesses that depend on unlimited H visa workers to prepare for these programs to end on Dec. 31. That is the responsible action for USCIS to take.

"I remain committed, though, to getting Congress to extend both the E-2 CNMI investor visa and the H visa exemption to the end of 2019.

"When the Commonwealth government was in charge of immigration, those 261 foreign investors who now hold E-2 CNMI visas were promised they could stay if they put their money into the Northern Marianas economy. I believe we have an obligation to keep that promise, and we certainly cannot afford to see those investments leave our economy.

"The exemption from the national cap on H visas may not seem important to the Northern Mariana Islands because we have few H visa temporary workers now. But investors planning for the future need to know that when they are ready to build a new hotel or other large project they will have access to temporary foreign construction workers if there are not enough U.S. workers. Without the exemption from the H visa cap, employers in the Northern Marianas would have to compete for those temporary workers with employers throughout the entire United States. And that prospect could scare off potential investors.

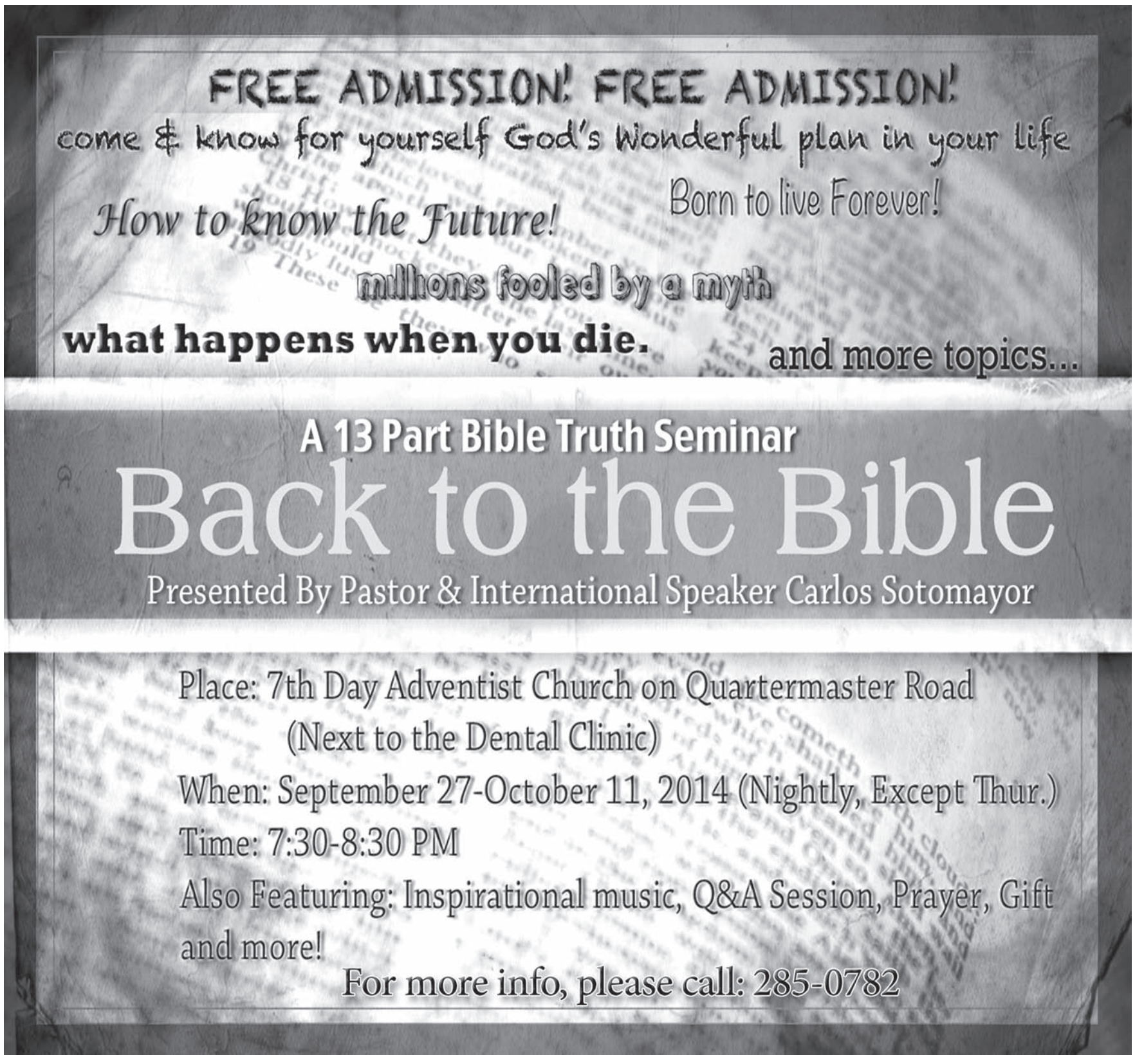
"As worthy as both the E-2 CNMI and H visa policies are, however, there is no guarantee that Congress will act to extend them during the few days we are in session after the November election. I do have the help of Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate with whom I have worked with on these issues for almost six years. People understand this is a time-critical issue. And I have been able to get several bills close to the legislative finish line, notably S. 1237 and H.R. 83, which passed the Senate last Thursday. But anything to do with immigration can be very contentious, and sometimes one person can block passage of a bill.

"There is opposition here in the Marianas, too, from some who say that Public Law 110-229 and the policies it put in place violated the Covenant and that there should be no extension. These local opponents add to the difficulty of passing a bill in Congress. They make it harder to legislate policies to allow the Northern Mariana Islands economy to rebound from an almost 10-year period of economic decline. They make it harder for us to keep the Commonwealth's promise to 261 foreign investors. They make it harder for us to be sure we have access to temporary construction workers to build over 2,000 hotel rooms Commonwealth elected officials have been promised in the coming years.

"Despite these difficulties, I will continue working toward the goal of extending these well-thought out policies until 2019. That goal has the backing of the Commonwealth government and is best for the future of our local economy." ***(Office of the Delegate)***

TAN HOLDINGS DONATES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TSL Foundation/Tan Holdings donates $10,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter yesterday in support of the chapter's annual Club 200 fundraiser. The donation was received by Red Cross board members and staff. From left to right: Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, Larry Lee, Maggie Sablan, John Hirsh, Nola Hix, and Paul Camacho.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Polynesia to headline Int'l Festival of Cultures

The spotlight turns on Polynesia this Saturday, Sept. 27, evening as the International Festival of Cultures continues at Paseo de Marianas on Saipan.

With 19 cultures represented, the Marianas Visitors Authority signature event offers live performances, international cuisine, arts and crafts, and cultural demonstrations from 5pm to 11pm.

Live entertainment starts at 6pm with Cook Islands, Mariana Islands (Chamorro), and Korea. The hourly entertainment lineup will continue with Japan, Bangladesh and Philippines beginning at 7pm; Hawaii beginning at 8pm; China, Tahiti, Marquese, Cook Islands, Chuuk, and Mariana Islands (Carolinian) beginning at about 9pm; and Fiji and Palau beginning at 10:05pm.

Food will be sold from the Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Japan, China, Korea, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Demonstration booths will include coconut-rope making, Chinese calligraphy, basket weaving, mwar-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Ave. ***(MVA)***

Search begins for 2015 Miss Marianas

The islands' nonprofit pageant and talent group, Stellar Marianas, after the recent success of 2014 Miss Marianas Teen, is ready to start the exciting journey of crowning the islands' ambassador to the world.

The search for 2015 Miss Marianas begins with the recruitment of contestants now ongoing to the end of October.

"This is a journey like no other and we encourage our young women to take this opportunity to boost confidence, gain lifelong skills, and be a positive role model for our community," said president Laila Boyer. "Like any new adventure, you won't know until you try—and believe us, this is an adventure you don't want to miss."

This year's Miss Marianas will feature the contestants as starlets of vintage Hollywood, celebrating the epitome of grace, intelligence, poise, and timeless beauty.

The age range for contestants is 18 to 25 years old, must be U.S. citizen, single (not married), has no children, and of good moral and ethical character.

The 2015 Miss Marianas contestant application forms are available at *Marianas Variety* office in Garapan and Pena House in Chalan Kanoa.

Contestants may receive a Stellar Marianas beauty bag, hair and make up training sessions, nutrition and fitness training, model portfolio, media interview and public speaking training sessions, opening number outfit and swimwear.

The 2015 Miss Marianas could win crown, trophy, sash and flowers, $1,500 cash, all expense paid travel opportunity to compete at international competitions, all expense paid travel opportunities, a brand new smartphone, one year supply of beauty products, one year gym membership and personal trainer, one year use of a personal stylist and manicurist, a professional model portfolio , a four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas and an opportunity to create and implement a community project under your name assisted by Stellar Marianas.

For more information, email Stellar Marianas at stellarqueens@gmail.com or join stellarmarianas on Facebook or Twitter. ***(PR)***

BoH grants now open to Saipan small businesses

Bank of Hawaii is now accepting applications for the I Kinometi Para I Kumunidåt I Islå-ta Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant for projects that will foster small-business development and economic activity on Saipan. Small-business owners are invited to submit applications by Monday, Oct. 6, 2014. The award is open to small-business owners with a successful track record in operating a business or management experience, and provides five grants of $5,000 each.

The bank established the grant program in 2012 to help promote new Saipan businesses and to encourage existing small businesses to expand.

If not already completed, grant awardees are required to successfully complete one of the following before Nov. 14, 2014:

n CNMI Small Business Development Center small business training program

n Bank of Hawaii Smart Money small business financial education training

Grant awardees are also expected to report back to the bank on how the grant has made a difference to their business and the community by Nov. 14, 2014.

Application forms are available at the bank's Garapan Branch or by contacting the Island Manager (Saipan) at (670) 237-2951. Forms are also available by contacting the CNMI Small Business Development Center at (670) 664-3018. Applications should be submitted to: Island Manager (Saipan) Hobbs Lowson, Bank of Hawaii Garapan Branch, Marianas Business Park, Saipan, MP 96950. ***(BOH)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-76**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-76"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, October 3, 2014**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, September 12, 2014,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0011-22**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-22"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., October 3, 2014**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, September 12, 2014,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

Woman in CW1 scam gets 8-month home confinement

The federal court imposed yesterday a sentence of eight months of home confinement and two years of supervised release on a woman who pleaded guilty of conspiring with a job-placement agency owner and another person to file petitions for CNMI-only Transitional Worker permits for some alien workers that falsely named the company as the workers' employer.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter said he is going to recommend that Rosabella P. Cruz be deported immediately to the Philippines.

"I don't think you should remain in the CNMI," Carter said.

The judge told the U.S. government that if Immigration wants to deport Cruz they should do it right away and not wait for eight months.

Carter noted that Cruz's involvement in the conspiracy was short, she did not get anything out of this scam, and that she accepted responsibility and is remorseful.

Carter said he was struck with the information that Cruz was only earning $300 monthly in the past as a houseworker and later got a better salary of $400 monthly as an employee.

"To me, coming from a different environment, that's very tragic," Carter said.

The judge also noted that Cruz's life has a lot of tragedies, including not knowing her biological parents after she was left in a shoebox when she was just a baby.

Carter said it is difficult for him to sentence Cruz to 21 months in prison—as the U.S. government had recommended—when the mastermind, Mariano K. Pangelinan, got only a six-month prison term.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton recommended a 21-month prison term. Attorney Michael Evangelista, counsel for Cruz, recommended a sentence of probation or home confinement.

Evangelista said that Cruz cooperated with the U.S. government from the start and he was surprised when she was later arrested. He said his client has had a very rough life since she was a child.

He said Cruz has been supporting her daughter and her mentally ill brother and that her participation in the crime was very minor or limited.

"Her entire life is a tragic," he said, adding that the defendant's mistake was she returned to work for Pangelinan. "She has suffered more than enough," he said.

Evangelista said Pangelinan, the mastermind who profited from the scam, got only six months in prison.

Cruz cried in court as she apologized for what she did. She said she accepted Pangelinan's offer to work at his company because she needed a job for her family. Cruz begged the judge to give her a chance.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Naughton said that Pangelinan got only a six-month sentence because of his terrible health condition, a factor that is not present in Cruz's case.

"It's just what happens when you commit a crime," Naughton said.

Last March, Cruz pleaded guilty to a count of the indictment charging her with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the United States. The offense carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a $250,000 fine, and three years of supervised release.

According to the plea agreement that Cruz entered with the U.S. government, she took a job at ARCH International Co. Ltd. in July 2011 and held this job until January 2012.

While working for ARCH, Cruz prepared and filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, on behalf of aliens, I-129 CW visa petitions that falsely and fraudulently named ARCH as each alien's "employer" when she and Pangelinan knew that the company did not employ these aliens.

The indictment charged Pangelinan, Cruz, and Helen N. Aparente with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S.

In addition, Pangelinan was charged with 17 counts of visa fraud, Cruz with 13 counts of visa fraud and one count of false statement, and Aparente with four counts of visa fraud.

Pangelinan was the primary corporate officer of ARCH International Co. Ltd., which held itself out as a job-placement agency that could help aliens in need of CW-1 permits find employment and obtain CW-1 permits.

Cruz and Aparente were employees of ARCH. Aparente has fled to the Philippines. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OVR outreach on Tinian

This is to inform the general public that Vocational Rehabilitation counselor Rose Ichiuo, from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, will be conducting an outreach on Tinian on Sept. 29-30, 2014 at the Tinian Department of Labor office. If you know anyone who has a disability resulting in substantial impediments to employment, wants to work, and is interested in receiving vocational rehabilitation services, please contact OVR at 322-6537/38 or Anthony Barcinas of Tinian DOL at 433-3700. ***(OVR)***

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: http://www.marianas.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacancy#14-002
POSITION TITLE : **Program Coordinator III (Physical Activity) - Limited Term Appointment**
Pay Level & Step : 24/01– 24/02
Annual Salary : $29,461.73 - $30,492.89
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/9/2014 Closing Date: 9/24/2014 or Until Filled

Vacancy#14-009
POSITION TITLE : **Dean, Cooperative Research, Extension and Educational Service (CREES)**
Pay Level & Step : Ungraded
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 8/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/15/2014 or Until Filled

Vacancy#14-014
POSITION TITLE : **Research Assistant I (2 Positions) - Limited Term Appointment**
Annual Salary : $15,080.00 - $15,607.80
Pay Level & Step : 10/1 – 10/2
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/29/2014 or Until Filled

Vacancy # 14-013
POSITION TITLE : **Financial Aid Specialist I - Limited Term Appointment**
Pay Level & Step : 21/01 – 21/02
Annual Salary : $25,523.00 - $26,416.30
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/9/2014 Closing Date: 9/24/2014 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds.

Northern Marianas College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0003-22,** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0003-22"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., October 3, 2014**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

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Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

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Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

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The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: August 22, 2014

DESTINATION ENHANCEMENT MVA

As part of destination enhancement and to improve safety at popular dive sites, the Marianas Visitors Authority donated dive rope to the Northern Mariana Dive Operators Association on Sept. 24, 2014. Pictured from left are NMDOA vice president Haruhiko Minagawa, NMDOA president Toshi Yamaguchi, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, and MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

'Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair, and Daddies Too!' on Oct. 11

MarPac, Inc. will be holding its "3rd Annual Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair, and Daddies Too!" on Oct. 11, from 10am to 3pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Like every year, the highlight of the event is the Huggies Baby Costume Pageant where babies and their parents showcase their Huggies custom-made costume.

The pageant is open to all babies who still use diapers daily. Under the competition rules, costumes must be made out of Huggies diapers; using a diaper brand other than Huggies is cause for automatic disqualification. Limited slots are available.

Those who'd like to join may get a registration form at MarPac's office in Gualo Rai. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 5pm.

Members of the public are also encouraged to save all UPC codes of any Huggies merchandise packaging like diaper case boxes, wrappers and Huggies wipes tubs to redeem free Huggies products, including baby wipes, T-shirts, bibs, and other merchandise during the event.

The "3rd Annual Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair, and Daddies Too!" will have games and raffle draws throughout the day. The games will include "Baby Crawling Contest," last year's crowd favorite game "Chocomilk Bottle Drinking Contest," and a new game, "Cottonelle Diaper Making Contest" (Team of 2: One person to stand still, arms up, while the other uses one roll of toilet paper to make a diaper on him/her, encircling both his/her waist and legs. The team that creates the best-looking Cottonelle diaper in a certain number of seconds wins the game).

The event will have exciting and energetic performers from Keynotes School of Music, Golden Harvest Int. School and Daycare, Smart Start Daycare, 2013 NMI Got Talent grand prize winner Bernice Sabino, Pacific Flowers, and a Zumba demo from Uncle Ben's Studio.

MarPac's Michelle Villacrusis said the activity aims to promote healthy lifestyle changes and wellness in the CNMI.

MarPac is also inviting healthcare providers, insurance companies, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and childcare development centers to join the health fair.

As of today, 12 confirmed exhibitors have signified their intention to attend the event, Villacrusis said. They include H.O.M.E Visiting Program, NCD Bureau, Children Developmental Assistance Center, Commonwealth Cancer Association, CNMI Humanities' Motheread/Fatheread Program, PSS Head Start, Golden Harvest Int. School & Daycare, Green Meadow School, Smart Start Daycare, DPH Immunization Program, NMC Nursing Club, and Marianas Eye Institute.

Aside from the health fair exhibitors, there will also be free health screenings ongoing during the event, Villacrusis said.

For example, NMC Nursing Club will be conducting blood pressure and blood sugar screening, Marianas Eye Institute will be conducting eye vision screening, and DPH-Immunization Program will be providing access to school-required flu and MMR vaccines to protect the community from different kinds of vaccine preventable diseases.

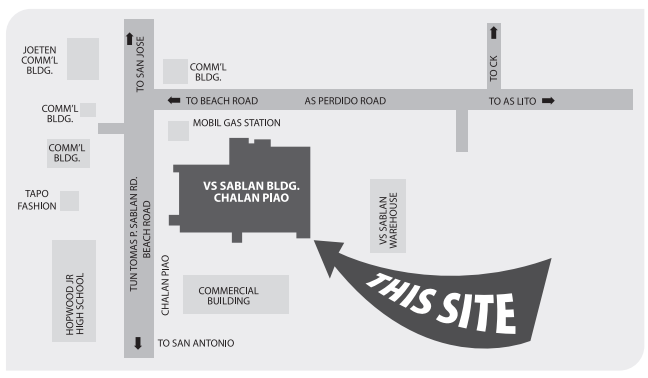
"The event is free to the community as well as to participating agencies and organizations," said Villacrusis.

MarPac consumer sales manager Tom Basa reiterated that due to space limitations, only three slots remain for the event and the deadline to submit exhibitor registration forms is on Sept 30.

Lastly, the grand prize winner of Huggies & Enfamil's current promotion will also be drawn at the event. Customers who purchase Huggies or Enfamil products at participating stores are eligible to enter the raffle draw. Raffle prizes at stake are a one-year supply of Enfamil and/or a one-year supply of Huggies Diapers and Wipes. The lucky names that shall be drawn must be present to win!

To participate in the "2014 Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair (and Daddies too!)" event or to drop donations, contact Villacrusis at 234-7113, email mvillacrusis@marpac-spn.com, or fax 234-2830 for more information. ***(MarPac)***

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, KRM General Merchandise

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free. Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.**

Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.

Sablan Building in San Jose
First Floor: 1 Unit Available. 600 sq.ft. at **65¢ per square foot.**
Units on the **Second Floor** are also available at **50¢ per square foot.**

SPECIAL RENT PROMO

Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **50 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot.**
Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot.**

2nd Floor Office Space (1 Unit) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - **800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.**

Warehouse For Lease – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 square meters. Located at our Chalan Piao location.
Asking $2,000.00 per month. Negotiable.

Rapugao 9,342 sq. meter Farmland for Rent for $400.00 a month, with easy access such as ASPHALT ROAD, CUC POWER LINE and WATER LINE. Serious inquiry only, must see to appreciate. Contact Ben Sablan

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-7500 Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com) or Call 234-2585/235-9020.

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
Vacancy Announcement No. GUP 14-002

Position Title:	**U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant**
Type of Appointment:	Full-Time Permanent
Classification Level:	Court Personnel System - Grade CL-24
Salary Range:	$37,596 to $45,196 (Promotion Potential up to CL-26 without further competition) (Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.84% COLA, which is subject to change)
Area of Consideration:	All Sources
Opening Date:	September 10, 2014
Closing Date:	October 3, 2014 at 4:00pm
Location of Vacancy:	**Saipan**

Position Overview
The Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant (PPSOA) serves in the judiciary law enforcement position under the direction and guidance of a Probation/Pretrial Services Officer (PPSO) or Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer (DCUSPO). The incumbent provides technical and operational support and assistance to probation/pretrial services officers in a variety of areas, including assisting with compiling information for investigations, assisting with and monitoring select offenders/defendants, coordinating with collateral agencies, drafting reports and correspondence, and assisting with similar operational duties. The incumbent will work in the U.S. Probation Office, District of the Northern Mariana Islands and the incumbent can also be assigned to work in the U.S. Probation Office, District of Guam.

Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States. There is a promotion potential up to Classification Level CL-26, without further competition, when personnel classification requirements have been met.

Application Procedure
Qualified applicants must submit an original and two (2) copies of each of the following: 1) Letter of interest; 2) Resume; 3) Letters from three professional and/or personal references; and 4) A completed Federal Judicial Branch Application for Employment (AO 78). For all inquiries, please call Frank Lizama at (671) 473-9209.

The complete announcement, AO 78 application form, and position description for Probation/Pretrial Services Officer Assistant Classification Level CL-24 are available on our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov. The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to applicants.

All application documents must be received at the U.S. Probation Office no later than Friday, October 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted via email or facsimile. Incomplete and untimely applications will not be considered. The most qualified applicants will be invited to, and must be physically present for, a personal interview. Travel expenses and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. All application information will be subject to verification.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Golf/dinner fundraiser cancelled

The Committee to Re-Elect Christopher D. Leon Guerrero would like to inform all ticket holders for the golf/dinner fundraiser scheduled on Sept. 28 has been postponed until further notice. Should you have any questions, call committee chair Luis Kapileo at 285-4260. ***(PR)***

BECQ sets Makaka Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Makaka Beach on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Makaka Beach area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to my brother, Jordan "Chachi" Igisomar! May all your wishes come true and many more beers to come! God bless and know that I love you forever! Party like a rock star!

Business

5 ways to protect yourself from data breaches

By JOSEPH PISANI
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Data breaches at retailers aren't going away but there are ways consumers can protect themselves from future heists of their payment card information.

Home Depot said Thursday that malicious software lurking in its check-out terminals between April and September affected 56 million debit and credit cards that customers swiped at its stores. Target, Michaels and Neiman Marcus have also been attacked by hackers in the past year.

More breaches are likely. The Department of Homeland Security Department warned last month that more than 1,000 retailers could have malware in their cash-register computers.

Here are five ways to protect yourself:

1. CONSIDER ANOTHER WAY TO PAY

Try newer ways to pay, such as PayPal or Apple Pay. "Any technology that avoids you having your credit card in your hand in a store is safer," says Craig Young, security researcher for software maker Tripwire. Those services store your credit card information and it's not given to the retailer when you make a payment. Many big retailers, including Home Depot, accept PayPal at their stores, but many others don't. Apple Pay, which was only introduced this month, has even more limitations: It is available in just a small number of stores so far and only people with an iPhone 6 can use it.

Stored-value cards or apps, such as the ones used at coffee chains Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts, are also a safer bet, says Gartner security analyst Avivah Litan. That's because they don't expose credit card information at the register.

2. SIGN IT, DON'T PIN IT

If you're planning on paying with a debit card, sign for your purchase instead of typing in your personal identification number at the cash register. You can do this by asking the cashier to process the card as a credit card or select credit card on the display. Not entering you PIN into a keypad will help reduce the chances of a hacker stealing that number too, Young says. Crooks can do more damage with your PIN, possibly printing a copy of the card and taking money out of an ATM, he says. During Target's breach last year, the discount retailer said hackers gained access to customers' PINs. Home Depot, however, said there was no indication that PINs were compromised in the breach at its stores.

3. BEWARE OF EMAIL SCAMMERS

After big data breaches are exposed, and get a lot of media attention, scammers come out of the woodwork looking to steal personal information. Some emails may mention Home Depot or offer free credit monitoring, but you should never click on the links. Many are for fake sites that try to steal bank information or passwords. "Avoid these entirely," Young says. If an email looks credible, go to Home Depot's site directly instead of clicking on links.

4. KEEP UP WITH STATEMENTS

Scan credit card statements every month for any unauthorized charges. And keep an eye out for smaller charges. Thieves will charge smaller amounts to test to see if you notice and then charge a larger amount later, Litan says. They may also steal a small amount from millions of accounts, scoring a big payday, she says.

And check your credit report for any accounts that crooks may have opened in your name. Credit reports are available for free, from each of the three national credit reporting agencies—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion—every 12 months from AnnualCreditReport.com. Home Depot is also offering free credit monitoring and identity protection services to customers. Customers can go to the company's website for more information or call them at 800-466-3337.

5. GO OLD SCHOOL

Use cash. When possible, the safest bet is to not swipe a card at all. Even if security gets stronger at stores, hackers are likely to figure out a way around it. "It's always a cat and mouse game," Young says.

Wal-Mart's mobile checking account nixes fees

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is the latest company to get rid of fees that traditional banks charge customers who don't have enough money in their accounts to cover purchases.

The world's largest retailer said Wednesday that it teamed up with Green Dot Corp., a company known for its reloadable prepaid cards, to bring mobile checking accounts to its shoppers. The accounts won't charge overdraft and bounced-check fees.

It's the latest attempt to offer banking services that cater to cash-strapped Americans who are still struggling in the economic recovery. Bank of America and Citibank both launched checking accounts this year that don't charge overdraft fees, which can normally cost up to $35 per transaction.

The moves come as overdraft fees, which occur when a customer doesn't have enough cash in their account to cover a purchase, have come under increasing scrutiny by regulators in the past few years.

In 2010, banks were required to get written approval from customers to provide overdraft protection, which allow balances to go below zero. But those that opt for overdraft coverage are still paying high fees: Some customers at large banks can pay, on average, almost $260 a year in overdraft fees, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Green Dot's account, called GoBank, has a monthly fee of $8.95. But that can be waived if a direct deposit of $500 is made each month.

To open an account, customers need to go to a Wal-Mart store and pay $2.95 for a starter kit. They must also own a smartphone, since most of the banking is done through the app. The kit comes with a MasterCard debit card that can be used to make purchases or to take out money, for no fee, at more than 42,000 ATMs around the country. Using an ATM outside the network will result in a $2.50 charge. There's also a 3 percent fee for money taken out at an ATM outside of the country.

And to attract people with poor credit scores and little money, Wal-Mart said that credit bureau ratings and other scores typically used to determine eligibility are not part of the process.

Daniel Eckert, senior vice president of services for Walmart U.S., said that the retailer's customers "feel they just aren't getting value from traditional banking because of high fees."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP14-BECQ-153

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2014 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT FOR SOIL AND GROUNDWATER OF THE MASALOG RIDGE AREA SITE ON TINIAN, CNMI UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, BROWNFIELDS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE 104K GRANT PROGRAM"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **SEPTEMBER 19, 2014** AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp** DURING REGUALR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 08, 2014 AT 10:00A.M. IN THE 2ND FLOOR BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205)

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, OCTOBER 10, 2014.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS-149 (A-C) – CIF – SAIPAN/ROTA/TINIAN

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2014 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) FIRE PROOF SAFE CABINETS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner

Joseph Dlg. Villagomez.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DANIEL TENORIO VILLAGOMEZ, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 14-0190 **NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Date: Oct. 28, 2014 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Joseph DLG. Villagomez has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition and motion will be conducted by the Court on October 28, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to F. Matthew Smith at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 19th day of September, 2014.

/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioner

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner

Joseph Dlg. Villagomez.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROSARIO DELEON GUERRERO, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 14-0191 **NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Date: Oct. 28, 2014 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

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Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 19th day of September, 2014.

/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioner

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 * CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY AT PL 26-03 THRU 05 - $20,484.60 - $22,576.96 PER ANNUM
COMMENSURATE WITH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

"HOUSING PRESERVATION TECHNICIAN I / HOUSING INSPECTOR"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 * CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY AT PL 35-08 THRU 12 - $40,531.43 - $49,266.21 PER ANNUM
COMMENSURATE WITH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

"MANAGER FOR PROGRAM & HOUSING DIVISION"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

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/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Nation

FBI releases report examining mass shootings

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of shootings in which a gunman wounds or kills multiple people has increased dramatically in recent years, with the majority of attacks in the last decade occurring at a business or a school, according to an FBI report released Wednesday.

The study focused on 160 "active shooter incidents" between 2000 and 2013. Those are typically defined as cases in which a gunman in an attack shoots or attempts to shoot people in a populated area.

The goal of the report, which excluded shootings that are gang and drug related, was to compile accurate data about the attacks and to help local police prepare for or respond to similar killings in the future, federal law enforcement officials said.

"These incidents, the large majority of them, are over in minutes. So it's going to have to be a teaching and training of the best tactics, techniques and procedures to our state and local partners," said James F. Yacone, an FBI assistant director who oversees crisis response and was involved in the report.

According to the report, an average of six shooting incidents occurred in the first seven years that were studied. That average rose to more than 16 per year in the last seven years of the study. That period included the 2012 shootings at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, as well as last year's massacre at the Washington Navy Yard in which a gunman killed 12 people before dying in a police shootout.

The majority of the shootings occurred either at a business or a school, university or other education facility, according to the study, conducted in conjunction with Texas State University. Other shootings have occurred in open spaces, on military properties, and in houses of worship and health care facilities.

A total of more than 1,000 people were either killed or wounded in the shootings. In about one-quarter of the cases, the shooter committed suicide before the police arrived. The gunman acted alone in all but two of the cases. The shooters were female in at least six of the incidents.

Not all of the cases studied involved deaths or even injuries. In one 2006 case in Joplin, Missouri, a 13-year-old boy brought a rifle and handgun into a middle school, but his rifle jammed after he fired one shot. The principal then escorted the boy out of school and turned him over to the police.

Law enforcement officials who specialize in behavioral analysis say the motives of gunmen vary but many have a real, or perceived, personally held grievance that they feel mandates an act of violence. Though it's hard to say why the number of shootings has increased, officials say they believe many shooters are inspired by past killings and the resulting notoriety.

Woman hit by Calif. officer settles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman punched repeatedly by a California Highway Patrol officer on the side of a freeway in an incident caught on video will receive $1.5 million in a trust under a settlement reached Wednesday night, and the officer has agreed to resign.

CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow confirmed the settlement in an emailed statement and an attorney for Marlene Pinnock confirmed the dollar amount for The Associated Press.

The agreement came after a nine-hour mediation session in Los Angeles.

"When this incident occurred, I promised that I would look into it and vowed a swift resolution," Farrow's statement said. "Today, we have worked constructively to reach a settlement agreement that is satisfactory to all parties involved."

The statement said that Officer Daniel Andrew, who joined the CHP in 2012 and has been on paid administrative leave since the incident, "has elected to resign."

Andrew could still be charged criminally in the case. The CHP forwarded the results of its investigation of the incident to Los Angeles County prosecutors last month, saying he could face serious charges but none have been filed yet.

Pinnock's attorney Caree Harper said the settlement fulfilled the two elements her side was looking for.

"One of the things we wanted to make sure of was that she was provided for in a manner that accommodated her unique situation in life," Harper said, "and that the officer was not going to be an officer anymore and we secured those things."

The July 1 video of Andrew punching Pinnock was captured by a passing driver and spread widely on the internet and television.

According to a search warrant made public in court documents last month, Andrew had just pulled Pinnock from oncoming traffic and she resisted by pushing him after multiple drivers called 911 to report her walking barefoot along the side of the freeway.

AP

In this July 1, 2014 file image made from video provided by motorist David Diaz, a California Highway Patrol officer straddles a woman while punching her on the shoulder of a Los Angeles freeway.

3 charged in gay assault; lawyer denies homophobia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A defense lawyer for one of three young adults charged with beating a gay couple during a night on the town insisted the men were injured when a "fist fight ... got out of hand," and not, as Philadelphia police believe, during a homophobic attack.

Police said 24-year-old Philip Williams of Warminster; 24-year-old Kathryn Knott of Southampton, the daughter of a suburban police chief; and 26-year-old Kevin Harrigan of Warrington turned themselves in Wednesday morning.

The three were charged with criminal conspiracy and two counts each of aggravated and simple assault, and reckless endangerment. Police did not release the names of the victims.

The victims told police a group hurled gay slurs and beat them when the two parties passed on a Philadelphia street Sept. 11. One man suffered serious facial injuries, including an orbital fracture, and had his jaw wired.

Knott

Harrigan

Williams

Williams' attorney, Fortunato Perri Jr., said the suspects and other friends had been celebrating a friend's birthday at a city restaurant before the encounter.

"In no way, shape or form was this incident related to anyone's sexual orientation," Perri said Wednesday outside the police station where his client surrendered. "This was a mutual confrontation that started because two individuals got into an argument out in the street."

Perri said his client was not the aggressor. Police, though, have said the defendants made disparaging remarks as they approached the couple.

"The group then attacked the complainants, holding them while other members of the group punched them in the face, head and chest," police said in a statement Wednesday.

Knott's attorney, Louis Busico, also denied that the dispute was motivated by anti-gay bias or that his client hurled insults or threw any punches.

"Ms. Knott is absolutely not homophobic and she didn't utter any slur to anyone, whatsoever," Busico said. "We don't deny that there was a gentleman who was assaulted. We don't deny that this gentleman was injured. But I unequivocally deny that my client did anything to hurt this man; she wouldn't hurt anybody."

The nature of the charges led Lansdale Hospital to suspend Knotts from her three-year job as an operating room technician. The hospital also said in a statement that it was looking into her Twitter account "for potential violations of patient privacy."

Harrigan's lawyer, Josh Scarpello, declined to discuss specifics of the criminal case, but said his client played a minor role and planned to plead not guilty. Scarpello said the group did not set out to attack the couple and described the ordeal as a "fist fight that got out of hand."

The case gained attention when police posted a video of the suspects, and online followers used social media sites to help identify them. One man in the group has since stepped down as a part-time basketball coach at Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster. He was not among those charged.

ACROSS THE NATION

No indictment in Ohio Wal-Mart shooting

CINCINNATI (AP)—Officers' actions were justified in the fatal shooting of a man holding an air rifle inside an Ohio Wal-Mart store, a grand jury determined Wednesday—using surveillance video the slain man's family said shows the shooting was completely unjustified. The Greene County grand jury opted not to issue any indictments in the Aug. 5 death of 22-year-old John Crawford III inside a Wal-Mart in Beavercreek, Special Prosecutor Mark Piepmeier said. A 911 caller reported Crawford was waving what appeared to be a rifle in the store. Police said he was killed after failing to obey commands to put down what turned out to be an air rifle taken from a shelf.

Suspect captured in case of missing UVa student

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A man charged in the disappearance of a University of Virginia student was captured on a Texas beach Wednesday, a day after police announced they had probable cause to arrest him. Police believe Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr. was the last person seen with Hannah Graham, an 18-year-old sophomore who went missing on Sept. 13 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Authorities obtained a felony warrant for his arrest late Tuesday. He has been charged with abduction with intent to defile. Matthew had sped away from a police station Saturday after coming with family members to ask for a lawyer.

2 killed in Alabama UPS shooting were supervisors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—The fiancee of one of two UPS supervisors who police say were slain by a fired employee said Wednesday her boyfriend had expressed sympathy for the man over the dismissal but didn't fear him. Brian Callans, 46, wasn't pleased when he found out the shipping company planned to fire 45-year-old Kerry Joe Tesney, partly because the man had a family to support, said Erica Carmichael, who was engaged to Callans. "He told me, `I'm not happy about it, Erica. The guy has been with the company a long time. That's a huge change in somebody's life,'" Carmichael said. UPS identified Callans, a business manager from Birmingham and driver supervisor Doug Hutcheson, 33, of Odenville, as the victims in the shooting at a package-sorting center on Tuesday. Callans had worked for the shipping giant for 26 years, and Hutcheson since 1999.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

73 dead in landslides, floods in northeast India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—The death toll from flash floods and landslides in India's northeast rose to 73 on Wednesday as rescue workers reached homes cut off by the rising waters, officials said. A senior government official in Meghalaya state, Barkos Warjri, said at least 35 bodies were recovered over the last two days and about 15 people were still missing. Police in neighboring Assam state said 38 people were killed there. Hundreds of thousands of people in both states have been forced from their homes, officials said. The area is prone to flooding during the June-to-September monsoon season. In June, at least 11 people were killed in heavy flooding in Assam's Gauhati city.

Indonesian province considers caning for gay sex

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—People caught having homosexual sex could be publicly caned in Indonesia's conservative Aceh province if an Islam-inspired draft law is approved this week. Lawmaker Moharriadi Syafari said a majority of provincial legislators supported criminalizing gay sex. They are debating the law with a view to passing it and several others regulating personal behavior before Friday, the last day of the current assembly. Gay rights activist King Oey said Wednesday he will urge the central government to use its influence to get the bill scrapped or appeal to the country's Constitutional Court.

US man's N. Korean prison life: Digging, isolation

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) -- An American man recently sentenced by North Korea to six years of hard labor says he is working eight hours a day digging in fields and being kept in isolation, but that so far his health isn't deteriorating.

Under close guard and with only enough time to respond to one question, 24-year-old Matthew Miller spoke briefly to an Associated Press Television News journalist at a Pyongyang hotel, where he had been brought to make a phone call to his family. It was his first appearance since he was convicted Sept. 14 of entering the country illegally to commit espionage.

"Prison life is eight hours of work per day. Mostly it's been agriculture, like in the dirt, digging around," Miller said when asked if he was in prison and if so what conditions were like.

"Other than that, it's isolation, no contact with anyone. But I have been in good health, and no sickness or no hurts," he said, showing little emotion.

Wearing a prison-style gray uniform and cap, Miller was filmed sitting down at a phone booth at the hotel and pressing the buttons on a phone while a North Korean guard stood behind him. Officials said Miller spoke to his father, but the APTN journalist was not allowed to hear the conversation. Miller does not have routine access to phone calls home.

The Bakersfield, California, native showed several letters he had written pleading for help from influential Americans, including first lady Michelle Obama, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

At Miller's 90-minute trial, North Korea's Supreme Court said he tore up his tourist visa at Pyongyang's airport upon arrival on April 10 and admitted to having the "wild ambition" of experiencing prison life so that he could secretly investigate North Korea's human rights situation.

Miller is one of three Americans detained in North Korea. Jeffrey Fowle, who was arrested in May for leaving a Bible at a sailor's club, is expected to be tried in court soon. Kenneth Bae was sentenced in 2013 to 15 years of hard labor.

Last week, Robert King, the U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, said Pyongyang has not accepted American offers to send a high-level envoy to seek release of the three men. King said that freeing the detainees could provide a diplomatic opening in ties between the two countries, but that Washington would not give into attempts to "extort" political gain from the detentions.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (ExxonMobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded integrated petroleum and natural gas company which operates facilities and markets products globally and explores for oil and natural gas on six continents. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

AVIATION REFUELLER SUPERVISOR

Job Description:
Responsible for assisting the Aviation Depot Superintendent in the safe and proper handling, storage and movement of aviation products at the airport as well as in the dispensation of aviation fuel into aircraft. Assists in ensuring compliance with the ExxonMobil Aviation's systems controls and guidelines and optimizing the efficiency of all assets at the facility. Directs fuelling personnel assigned to his shift in the performance of their duties.

Location:
- Saipan Aviation Depot, Northern Mariana Islands

Primary Job Functions:
- Executes and complies with ExxonMobil's systems controls, policies, and guidelines by using aviation manuals and procedures and adhering to government and industry standards.
- Manages, controls and administers product inventory, receipt storage and delivery to customers on time. Ensures that only clean, dry and on-specification fuel is delivered to aircraft safely and efficiently.
- Supervises and requests authorization to perform facility or equipment maintenance and repair to improve operations' safety and efficiency in the most economical manner.
- Oversees all aspects of aviation products, assets and materials used in a safe and efficient manner.
- Supervises the facility, employees and stewards contractors' adherence to required levels of performance on assigned duties during the shift. Recommends actions on equipment's maintenance and repairs to the Aviation Depot Superintendent.
- Responsible for recommending the materials listing of spare parts requirements and assists in repairs of specialty items as required.
- Reports current developments at the facility during his shift.

Qualifications:
- Experience in the safe handling, storage and movement of petroleum or related field.
- Understanding of aviation and federal regulations as they apply to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution.
- Must be willing to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends and holidays.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, which includes being able to speak and write well in English

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:
- Experience in aviation operations.
- Previous supervisory experience.
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage.
- Previous experience in petroleum industry.

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before October 03 , 2014.

Attention:
Steven Rice, Aviation Operations Manager
P.O. Box 502168 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
(Fax) 670 234-5126
Email: steve.rice@exxonmobil.com

ExxonMobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, protected veteran or disability status.

Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires. We comply with this law in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Mobil®

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AVIATION REFUELLER

Job Description:
Responsible for assisting the Aviation Depot Supervisor in safe and proper handling, storage and movement of aviation products at the airport as well as dispensing aviation fuel into aircraft. Ensures that into-plane refuelling is carried out safely and in accordance with the ExxonMobil Aviation's operating procedures.

Location:
- Saipan Aviation Depot, Northern Mariana Islands

Primary Job Functions:
- Executes and complies with ExxonMobil's systems controls, policies, and guidelines by using aviation manuals and procedures and adhering to government and industry standards.
- Ensures that only clean, dry and on-specification fuel is delivered to aircraft safely and efficiently.
- Stewards facility contractor's adherence to required levels of performance of assigned duties when such personnel is assigned to his shift.
- Performs repairs on facility and equipment as directed by the Aviation Depot Supervisor.
- Advises the supervisor on stock levels of required aviation materials in a timely manner.
- Performs tests and checks on fuels and equipment and ensures a current and accurate record is kept reflecting all results.

Qualifications:
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, storage and movement or related field.
- Understanding of aviation and federal regulations as they apply to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution.
- Must be willing to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends and holidays.
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Mobil®

World

US hits Islamic State group in both Syria and Iraq

BEIRUT (AP)—U.S. fighter jets and bombers expanded their aerial campaign against Islamic State targets Wednesday, striking the militants in both Syria and Iraq even as the extremists pressed their offensive in Kurdish areas within sight of the Turkish border, where fleeing refugees told of civilians beheaded and towns torched.

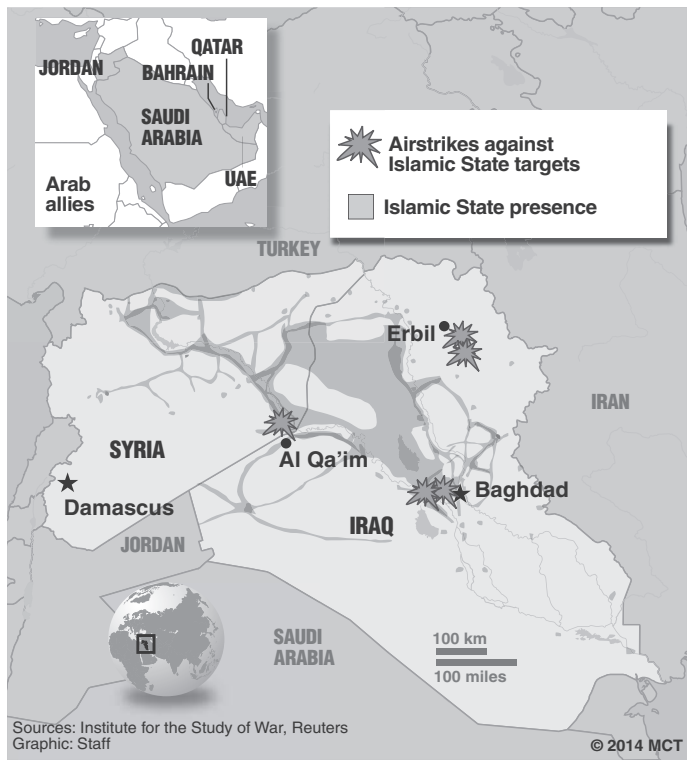
President Barack Obama, speaking at the United Nations, vowed an extended assault and called on the world to join in.

"The only language understood by killers like this is the language of force, so the United States of America will work with a broad coalition to dismantle this network of death," he told the U.N. General Assembly in a 38-minute speech. "Today, I ask the world to join in this effort."

In Syria, hard-line rebels aligned with a faction fighting to oust President Bashar Assad, but considered too radical by the U.S., packed up their heavy weapons and evacuated their bases over fears the Obama administration would target all fighters deemed a potential threat to the United States.

Wednesday airstrikes

U.S. and coalition aircraft launched five airstrikes early Wednesday against terrorist targets in Iraq and Syria



Wednesday's strikes marked the second day of a broadened U.S. military operation against the Islamic State group, after a barrage of more than 200 strikes on some two dozen targets in Syria a day earlier. That campaign, which the White House has warned could last years, builds upon the air raids the U.S. has already been conducting for more than a month against the extremists in Iraq.

The ultimate aim of the Obama administration and its Arab partners is to destroy the Islamic State group, which through brute force has carved out a proto-state in the heart of the Middle East, effectively erasing the border between Iraq and Syria. Along the way, the extremist faction has massacred captured soldiers, terrorized religious minorities and beheaded two American journalists and a British aid worker.

AP

In this image provided by the U.S. Navy a F/A-18F Super Hornet attached to the Fighting Black Lions of Strike Fighter Squadron lands aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, after conducting strike missions against Islamic State group targets in Syria.

Algerian Islamic militants behead French hostage

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—An Algerian splinter group from al-Qaida has beheaded a French hostage over France's airstrikes on the Islamic State group, in a sign of the possible widening of the crisis in Iraq and Syria to the rest of the region.

The killing of Herve Gourdel, a mountaineer who was kidnapped while hiking in Algeria, was a "cowardly assassination," a visibly upset French President Francois Hollande said Wednesday, but he vowed to continue the military operation.

"Herve Gourdel is dead because he is the representative of a people—ours—that defends human dignity against barbarity," Hollande said on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. "France will never cede to terrorism because it is our duty, and, more than that, because it is our honor."

On Friday, France joined the U.S. in conducting airstrikes on the Islamic State group in Iraq. Two days later, the Islamic State group called on Muslims to attack foreign targets, and the response in Algeria raised the specter of attacks on Westerners elsewhere.

Gourdel, a 55-year-old mountaineering guide from Nice, was seized Sunday night while hiking in the Djura Djura mountains of northern Algeria. His Algerian companions were released.

A group calling itself Jund al-Khilafah, or "Soldiers of the Caliphate," split from al-Qaida and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group two weeks ago. It seized Gourdel in response to the call to kill the "spiteful and filthy French." It gave France 24 hours to end its air campaign.

A video posted online showed masked gunmen standing over a kneeling Gourdel. They pledged their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and said they were fighting his enemies. The video showed the captive pushed to the ground and blindfolded before he was beheaded.

Off The Wall

University launches beer-making program

DETROIT (AP)—Colleges and beer have a long shared history. A university in Michigan is taking that partnership to a new level with the creation of a program to train and certify experts in "fermentation science."

Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant this week announced plans to launch the program in fall 2015, aimed particularly at supporting and boosting the state's fast-growing craft brewing industry, now a $1 billion-plus annual business.

"As of 2013, Michigan ranked fifth in the nation in number of breweries, behind only California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington," said Ian Davison, dean of the College of Science and Technology at the Mount Pleasant school.

Central Michigan bills its undergraduate program as the first in the state specifically aimed at providing a "hands-on education focused on craft beer." Similar programs operate at the University of California's Davis and San Diego campuses and at Oregon State and Central Washington universities.

Michigan State University has operated an artisan distilling program for 15 years and last year started a beverage specialization program that also includes beer and wine-making.

The Central Michigan program will include classroom and lab work in biochemistry, chemistry and microbiology, as well as a 200-hour internship in a "production-scale facility."

AP

This photo released by Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich., shows James Holton, owner of Mountain Town Station Brewing Co. & Restaurant.

The university, which is about 150 miles northwest of Detroit, said it is collaborating with the Mountain Town Brewing Co. and Hunter's Ale House in developing the program.

Program director Cordell DeMattei said it "will fill a need in the state and across the region for students to learn the science and technology underlying brewing ... and provides the training needed by future leaders of the craft brewing industry."

Recent years have seen an explosion of interest in small-scale, local, high-quality beer-making.

Rob Sirrine of the Michigan State University Extension said more than 400 acres of hops, beer's key flavoring ingredient, are under cultivation in Michigan. Growers' main market is small-sale in-state brewers, he said.

Behind the growth in demand for high-end beer is a long-running fascination with the brewing process, one of the oldest forms of human food processing.

"There's a lot of romantic attachment to beer," said Scott Graham, executive director of the Michigan Brewers Guild. The Lansing-based group represents the state's microbreweries, now numbering more than 160, and helped win passage this year of laws allowing them to expand.

In-state microbrewers currently have 5 percent of Michigan's beer market, a share that could easily double or triple, Graham said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Teacher who talked of killer robots resigned

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A San Diego County teacher resigned after being investigated for talking in class about programming robots to shoot and kill students. U-T San Diego reported Tuesday that Tuyet-Mai Thi Vo was allowed to resign last year and receive a $92,000 settlement instead of being fired. Oceanside Unified School District officials investigated complaints that Vo said in 2012 that if robots were teachers, she would program them to shoot students when they misbehaved. The district report says the 48-year-old told her class she would program robots to kill all of the students. The teacher maintains the allegations are untrue, and she has a positive recommendation letter from then-Superintendent Larry Perondi to vouch for her ongoing fitness for the classroom.

Idaho woman charged with felony over chewed seat

SANDPOINT, Idaho (AP)—A northern Idaho woman has been charged with a felony after police say she chewed up the upholstery of a patrol car seat. The Bonner County Daily Bee reports 42-year-old Staci Anne Spence was charged late last week with felony malicious injury to property and misdemeanors including resisting arrest and battery on an officer. Spence has not yet entered a plea, according to court records, and a phone listing for her could not be found. Prosecutors say Spence was arrested Thursday morning after deputies came to her home to investigate a battery report. The deputies wrote in a court statement that when they arrived at the Bonner County Jail, they found that Spence had chewed through the patrol vehicle's upholstery and into the foam cushioning.

Texas firefighters rescue pet frog from blaze

WESTWORTH VILLAGE, Texas (AP)—Firefighters who doused the flames at a North Texas house have also made sure the lone resident didn't croak. Fort Worth firefighters rescued a pet frog and returned the amphibian to the daughter of the homeowners who were out of town. Battalion Chief Richard Harrison said Wednesday that firefighters have saved dogs and cats, but it's the first time he recalls a frog rescue. Firefighters on Tuesday night were dispatched to a blaze in Westworth Village. Crews searched the house and found no humans while bringing the blaze under control. Then Jamie Wilson arrived and asked fire crews to look for her family's frog. A firefighter located the unscathed frog in its glass container.

Science & Technology

Messaging app seeks to bring voices back to phones

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Longtime technology guru Ray Ozzie wants to bring back the emotions of the human voice to phones.

His mission began more than two years ago as Ozzie noticed people were increasingly communicating through texts, emails and social media posts instead of calling each other.

"When you see nothing but words and numbers, it becomes very mechanical and very transactional," Ozzie said in an interview. "But when you hear the sound of someone's voice, it really brings it much closer to home."

Ozzie, 58, Microsoft's former chief software architect, hopes to orchestrate voice's comeback through Talko, a mobile application being released Tuesday for the iPhone. A version for Android phones is expected in a few months.

Ozzie

Talko sends the equivalent of text messages in the form of a spoken word. Talko users can record a voice message and send it over the Internet to anyone else with the app. Recipients listen to the recording when it's convenient, rather than being interrupted by a traditional phone call.

All messages will be stored for 10 days, though users can buy a subscription—expected to be $5 to $9 per month—to permanently store messages. For the first few months, Talko will store all voice recordings for free.

Users can choose to make their recordings available to more than one person, a feature that Ozzie believes will make Talko ideal for employees working in the same department of a company.

The five DigitalGlobe workers who installed the app in July as part of Talko's testing didn't use it much initially, partly because they were so accustomed to texting and emailing each other or trying to schedule a conference call when they needed to talk, said Ed Locher, DigitalGlobe's senior vice president of corporate marketing.

But Talko turned out to be valuable in the five days leading up to the launch of a DigitalGlobe satellite last month, Locher said. "It reminded me of a walkie talkie," he said. "It was much faster than texting or trying to set up a conference call."

Ozzie isn't under the delusion that voice messages are going to supplant popular communications apps such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and Tango, which combine texts and photo sharing. Talko also accommodates texts and photos to supplement the voice recordings.

Another technology industry veteran, Alan Braverman, also is trying to give voices a new outlet on phones. Last week, his San Francisco startup incubator, Giant Pixel, released an iPhone and iPad app called Sobo that offers a vocal twist to Twitter, the popular short-messaging network. Sobo users can record six-second sound bites that are then broadcast to their followers. Braverman is best known as a co-founder of Yammer, a social networking tool for businesses that Microsoft Corp. bought for $1.2 billion in 2012.

Meanwhile, the Messages app in Apple's new iOS 8 software for mobile devices also lets users record and send short audio messages. Recipients raise their iPhones to their ears to automatically play the message. Under default settings, messages expire two minutes after listening.

Ozzie was well known before Microsoft bought one of his previous startups, Groove Networks, for an undisclosed amount in 2005. In the 1980s, he played a key role in creating a suite of document-sharing tools at Lotus Development Corp., now owned by IBM Corp. Shortly after joining Microsoft, Ozzie succeeded company co-founder Bill Gates as chief software architect, a role he held until he left Microsoft in 2010.

The 11-employee startup behind Talko is funded by Ozzie's personal fortune and investments from venture capital firms Andreessen Horowitz and Greylock Partners. Kapor Capital, a venture capital firm that includes Lotus founder Mitch Kapor, also is backing Talko.

Although Talko is focusing on the business market, Ozzie said he hopes employees will have such a positive experience that they will encourage their family members and friends to install the app, too.

"I really do believe it will spread by word of mouth," Ozzie said.

TECH Q&A

Moving photos from your phone to a computer

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My wife and I took vacation photos this summer on an iPhone, Samsung phone, iPad and digital camera. We are now trying to combine them into a single computer slide show. Is it possible to transfer photos from my Samsung SCH-1545 phone to my wife's iMac computer?

A: It's possible if the operating systems for your phone and your wife's iMac are new enough.

Your phone passes the test because it has Android operating system version 4.4.2. Your wife's iMac will pass if it has operating system Mac OS X 10.5 or newer.

Assuming your devices meet both qualifications, there are two ways you can transfer your phone's photos to the iMac via the USB cord that came with the phone. You can use the free Samsung "Kies 3 for Mac" program (requires Android version 4.3 or higher), which you can download at tinyurl.com/6fxndhl. Note that you'll have to scroll down the page a ways to find it. Or you can try Google's free "Android File Transfer" program (requires Android version 3.0 or higher) at tinyurl.com/md3g9kn.

You can find instructions for using either program at tinyurl.com/lfwh5r5. Note Samsung's warning: If you try the Kies software and don't like it, you must uninstall Kies before running the Android File Transfer program. If you don't, the latter program won't work.

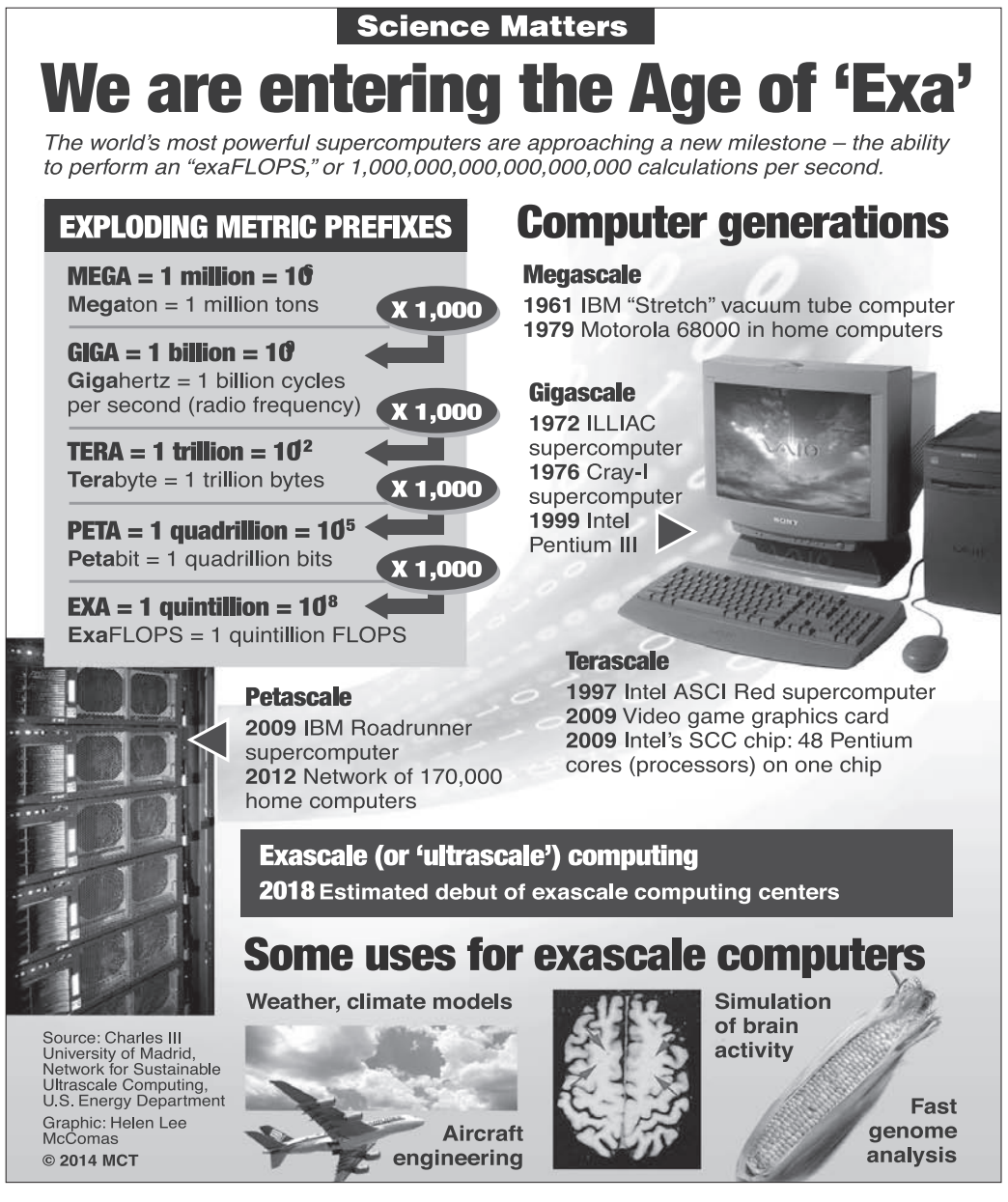
Q: I read your column about transferring photos from an old Samsung phone to another cellphone via multimedia messaging (see tinyurl.com/mkzx66z). But is there a way we can send photos from our Samsung SGH-A127 flip phone to a computer?

A: Your phone is too old for the solution listed above. But you can transfer your photos via email. To do that, use the same multimedia messaging service that you'd use to send a photo to another phone. But instead of typing a cellphone number on the "send to" line of the MMS message, type an email address. When you access the email on your PC, the photo should appear as an attachment. Download the attachment to the computer's hard disk.

For Samsung's directions on how to use your phone's MMS function, see tinyurl.com/qf45a8m and read "Where can I find the driver for a Samsung SGH-A127?"

Q: I listen to audio books on CD, and need a new player. But I can't find a new CD player that will start at the same place in the book where I quit listening the last time. Where can I find one?

A: It's hard to find a new CD player with the "resume" feature you describe, so you may have to buy a used player. Check out the Sony Walkman D-EJ109 ($14.99 used, see tinyurl.com/kqx4faf) and the Aiwa XP-ER800N ($14.99 used, see tinyurl.com/mfca57j).


Science Matters
We are entering the Age of 'Exa'
The world's most powerful supercomputers are approaching a new milestone – the ability to perform an "exaFLOPS," or 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 calculations per second.
EXPLODING METRIC PREFIXES
MEGA = 1 million = 10^6
Megaton = 1 million tons
X 1,000
GIGA = 1 billion = 10^9
Gigahertz = 1 billion cycles per second (radio frequency)
X 1,000
TERA = 1 trillion = 10^12
Terabyte = 1 trillion bytes
X 1,000
PETA = 1 quadrillion = 10^15
Petabit = 1 quadrillion bits
X 1,000
EXA = 1 quintillion = 10^18
ExaFLOPS = 1 quintillion FLOPS
Computer generations
Megascale
1961 IBM "Stretch" vacuum tube computer
1979 Motorola 68000 in home computers
Gigascale
1972 ILLIAC supercomputer
1976 Cray-I supercomputer
1999 Intel Pentium III
Terascale
1997 Intel ASCI Red supercomputer
2009 Video game graphics card
2009 Intel's SCC chip: 48 Pentium cores (processors) on one chip
Petascale
2009 IBM Roadrunner supercomputer
2012 Network of 170,000 home computers
Exascale (or 'ultrascale') computing
2018 Estimated debut of exascale computing centers
Some uses for exascale computers
Weather, climate models
Aircraft engineering
Simulation of brain activity
Fast genome analysis
Source: Charles III University of Madrid, Network for Sustainable Ultrascale Computing, U.S. Energy Department
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
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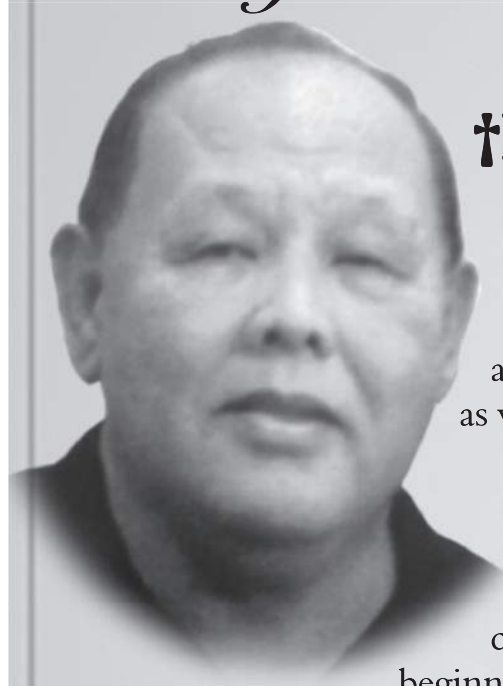
First Year Death Anniversary



In Loving Memory of
†Pedro Cogure Arriola

We, the family of the late Pedro Cogure Arriola would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church beginning Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6:00am. On the final day, Thursday, October 2, 2014, mass will be offered at 6:00am. Breakfast will follow immediately at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank You – Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Maraming Salamat Po

The Family

Life & Style

'Boxtrolls' blends old-school, high-tech animation

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP
In this image released by Focus Features, characters Winnie, voiced by Elle Fanning, left, and Eggs, voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright, appear in a scene from "The Boxtrolls."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Archibald Snatcher, "The Boxtrolls" villain voiced by Ben Kingsley, did not walk between sets during filming. Instead, he was delicately perched on a pillow and wheeled gingerly through the studio.

This wasn't a Hollywood diva demand that required Snatcher to be treated like precious cargo. As an 18-inch-tall, hand-made puppet actor, he actually IS precious cargo: the result of countless hours of conceptualization and craft; a work of art with a jointed metal skeleton, silicone skin and hair made from hemp.

If the world of "The Boxtrolls" feels real to moviegoers, that's because it is. From the cobblestone streets of Cheesebridge to the underground wonderland the boxtrolls call home, everything shown onscreen in the film really exists at Laika Studios just outside Portland, Oregon. Each fantastical character and set is meticulously built by hand. The puppet stars have working joints so they can be moved into position and photographed frame by frame, just as stop-motion animation has been done for the past century. But it takes a high-tech touch to really make "The Boxtrolls" come alive.

"We don't want for a second for the audience to even think these are dolls," said Laika Studios chief Travis Knight. "I want them to see them as living, breathing, emoting things with aspirations and hopes by bringing subtlety and nuance to the performance."

"The Boxtrolls," in theaters Friday, tells the story of Eggs (Isaac Hempstead Wright), a boy raised by boxtrolls since he was a baby. While the human citizens of Cheesebridge believe the subterranean box-clad creatures are evil, Eggs knows they're sweet and resourceful, coming above ground at night to collect garbage and transform it into spectacular machinery for their bustling society. With the help of a curious girl, Winnie (Elle Fanning), Eggs fights to protect the boxtrolls from Snatcher, who would have them eradicated.

Knight said it's the 9-year-old studio's most ambitious film to date. It features more puppet stars and advanced technology than Laika's first two features, "Coraline" and "ParaNorman," which each earned Oscar nods.

The puppets start as sketches and clay models before they're built as working actors that can do everything the story demands of the character. The costume department stitches tiny outfits for the puppet actors to wear. Artists make extra hands for all characters (with floral wire inside for mobility), because hands are the first to break. Some puppets have "stunt legs" to perform action sequences.

Snatcher is among the tallest puppet stars. Eggs stands at about 9 1/2 inches, Knight said, while the boxtrolls are 3 to 4 inches high.

Their faces are their most high-tech feature. Through computer design, rapid prototyping and 3-D printing, artists are able to create an infinite range of facial expression possibilities for the puppet actors.

"It's like a little Mr. Potato Head," Knight said.

Each puppet has a collection of detachable, interchangeable upper and lower facial pieces that can be combined to convey various emotions and phonetic sounds. "Facial librarians" on staff keep track of all the computer-printed expressions. When an animator takes on a scene, he checks out a set of face parts for his puppet actors. The set comes packaged in what looks like a pizza box.

"There were 15,000 different pieces for Eggs' faces," said Anthony Stacchi, who co-directed the film with Graham Annable. "The combinations you could put them in were over a million."

The celebrity voice actors provide the character's vocal personality, and the animators and puppets provide their physical performance. Frame by frame, the animators translate magnet-backed face pieces into human expressions and incremental movements into fluid motion as the puppets enact the story.

"It's all the different parts that inform the (animation) process—the rapid prototyping, the 3-D printing ... the digital photography, the different lighting techniques—those are all things that ultimately change what comes out at the other end," Knight said. "But the process at its very core is the same: It's still an animator on a set moving a puppet a frame at a time and bringing it to life that way."

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THE EQUALIZER [CC,DV] (R)
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Sat.(130 430) 725 1030
Sun.(130 PM 430 PM) 725 PM
Mon. - Thu.(430 PM) 725 PM
THE BOXTROLLS [CC,DV] (PG)
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Mon. - Thu.(500 PM)
THE BOXTROLLS 3D [CC,DV] (PG)
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THE MAZE RUNNER [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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IF I STAY [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Sun. - Thu.(445 PM)
Times For 09/26 - 10/02 www.REGmovies.com

'Jersey Shore' star Sorrentino hit with tax counts

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A former star of the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore" and his brother filed bogus tax returns on nearly $9 million and claimed millions in business expenses—including luxury vehicles and clothing—that were actually for personal use, according to an indictment released Wednesday.

Sorrentino

Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino and his brother Marc pleaded not guilty through their attorneys during a brief initial appearance in U.S. District Court. Neither made any statements during or after the proceeding, though when Mike Sorrentino was asked outside the courthouse if he was innocent he smiled and replied, "Of course."

Each brother was released on $250,000 bail and scheduled for arraignment on Oct. 6.

According to the seven-count indictment, the Sorrentinos earned about $8.9 million between 2010 and 2012, mostly through two companies they controlled, MPS Entertainment and Situation Nation. They allegedly filed false documents that understated the income from the businesses as well as their personal income. Mike Sorrentino also is charged with failing to file taxes for 2011, a year in which he earned nearly $2 million.

The brothers also allegedly spent millions of dollars on personal expenses they claimed were for business In 2012, for example, the brothers filed documents with an unnamed accounting firm in Staten Island that claimed $3.9 million in business expenses, according to the indictment released by U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman.

Both brothers are charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, which is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of five years upon conviction.

Marc Sorrentino faces three counts of filing false returns from 2010 to 2012 and Mike Sorrentino is charged with two counts, in addition to one count of failing to file taxes for 2011. The conspiracy is alleged to have run from early 2010 to late 2013 in Monmouth and Ocean counties in New Jersey.

The false filing counts carry maximum potential prison sentences of three years; failure to file carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison.

"Rather than living in reality and reporting their true income, Michael Sorrentino and his brother Marc created the illusion that they earned less income by filing false and fraudulent tax returns," said Jonathan D. Larsen, head of IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark.

Christopher Adams, an attorney for Marc Sorrentino, blasted the government's case.

"He has spent the better part of a year trying to show them flaws in their theory, and it is unfortunate that the government has chosen to rely on the word of a disgraced accountant who is a proven liar," Adams told The Associated Press in an email.

Richard Sapinski, an attorney representing Mike Sorrentino, didn't comment after the hearing and didn't return a message seeking comment.

The cast of the MTV reality show were known for their rowdy lifestyle that occasionally led to legal scrapes. In July, Mike Sorrentino agreed to take anger management classes to resolve assault charges stemming from a July 15 fight with his brother at their family's tanning salon.

Anti-paparazzi charges revived over Bieber chase

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appellate court has ordered the reinstatement of anti-paparazzi charges against a photographer accused of engaging in a high speed chase of Justin Bieber in 2012.

A three-judge Los Angeles Superior Court panel ordered Friday that two counts of a law aimed at curbing aggressive driving by the paparazzi be reinstated against celebrity photographer Paul Raef.

Raef was also charged with traditional reckless driving charges after the July 2012 chase on a Los Angeles freeway that topped 80 mph and prompted several 911 calls. The case had been put on hold while Los Angeles prosecutors appealed the dismissal of the anti-paparazzi counts. He has not yet entered a plea to any of the counts.

Raef is the first photographer to be charged under the 2010 law, but his attorneys successfully got the anti-paparazzi counts dismissed in November 2012 by arguing that the statute was unconstitutional. Superior Court Judge Thomas Rubinson agreed, stating at the time that the anti-paparazzi law could be applied to photographers rushing to shoot a wedding or a political rally, or even private citizens on their way to an event that might generate photos worth selling.

The judges had previously indicated that they believed the law was constitutional. Their full opinion on the case was not available Wednesday.

The anti-paparazzi law was inspired in part by the experience of Jennifer Aniston, who told a lawmaker about being unable to drive away after being surrounded by paparazzi on Pacific Coast Highway. The law raised the penalty for those who drive dangerously in pursuit of photos for commercial gain.

The offense is punishable by six months in jail and a $2,500 fine but went unused until the pursuit of Bieber, which resulted in the singer receiving a speeding citation.

Fan claims injury from Rod Stewart soccer ball

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A soccer ball kicked into the crowd at a Las Vegas concert has bounced back to Rod Stewart in the form of a lawsuit by a Southern California man who says he has lingering injuries after his nose was broken.

Mostafa Kashe's civil negligence complaint alleges that he didn't expect to be hit in the face by a ball kicked by the raspy-voiced British singer from the stage during a show at the Caesars Palace resort in October 2012.

Representatives of Stewart, promoter AEG Live and Caesars Entertainment Corp. didn't immediately comment Wednesday on the lawsuit filed against them Monday in Nevada's Clark County District Court.

Michael Roth, of AEG Live, said his firm had not yet been served with the complaint.

Kashe, 53, an electrical engineer from Diamond Bar, California, seeks unspecified damages of at least $10,000 plus attorney fees.

His attorney, Larry Weinsteen, said Kashe and his wife were big Stewart fans who traveled to Las Vegas primarily for the concert.

The lawyer said his client was treated by a hotel medic and filed an injury report with Caesars before being left with "substantial" injuries including an impaired sense of smell.

Stewart is known for hits including "Maggie May" and "Tonight's the Night."

The 69-year-old London-born rocker also is a longtime soccer fan and club league player. He frequently kicks autographed balls into the audience at his shows.

AP

In this Feb. 27, 2014, file photo, singer Rod Stewart kicks a soccer ball to the crowd as he performs at the Vina del Mar International Song Festival in Vina del Mar, Chile.

As AC/DC readies its new album, Young not returning

NEW YORK (AP)—Malcolm Young has left AC/DC.

A statement Wednesday from the band's label said: "Unfortunately, due to the nature of Malcolm's condition, he will not be returning to the band."

No details were provided.

The band announced in April that the 61-year-old guitarist was taking a break to focus on his health.

AC/DC will release the album "Rock or Bust" on Dec. 2. They will launch a world tour next year.

Stevie Young, nephew of founding members Malcolm and Angus Young, played guitar on the band's new album and will join them on the tour.

AC/DC includes vocalist Brian Johnson, drummer Phil Rudd and bassist Cliff Williams. Young has performed with AC/DC for 40 years.

Cat Stevens cancels New York show, blames scalpers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cat Stevens is canceling his New York performance just weeks after announcing a six-city tour.

Stevens said on his Facebook page Wednesday that he would not keep the New York engagement because its requirement for paper tickets has led to exorbitant resale prices.

Stevens, also known as Yusuf, the name he claimed after converting to Islam, announced earlier this month that he planned a concert tour behind the blues album he's releasing on Oct. 27. The concerts are his first series of shows in North America since 1976.

Stevens says he is a longtime supporter of paperless tickets "and avoiding scalpers," and hopes to return to New York City in the future.

Wiz Khalifa's wife files to end marriage to rapper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Model Amber Rose is ending her yearlong marriage to rapper Wiz Khalifa.

Rose filed for divorce on Tuesday in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences. She is seeking custody of their 20-month old son and spousal support as laid out in the former couple's prenuptial agreement.

Court filings state the couple separated on Monday, but provide no other details on the split or how the pair's finances will be divided.

They were married in July 2013 less than five months after their son was born.

Khalifa, whose hit "Black and Yellow" helped make his 2011 album, "Rolling Papers," a success, released his latest album, "Blacc Hollywood," in August.

The divorce filing was first reported Wednesday by celebrity website TMZ.

AP

In this Sunday, Aug. 24, 2014 file photo, Wiz Khalifa, left, and Amber Rose arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif.

Jason Orange leaves Take That with band blessing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Orange is leaving the British pop band Take That.

Orange and his former band mates made the announcement Wednesday on the band's website.

Orange said in his statement that he's been considering his departure since the group wrapped its Progress Live tour in 2011.

Take That's remaining members, Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald, described Orange's departure as a personal and professional loss.

Orange

They said Orange's belief in the band is what made them so successful.

Take That is expected to release a new album later this year.

Husband's first marriage is a shock to his widow

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently passed away, and among his papers I discovered evidence of another previous marriage. It came as a shock because he had never told me.

Should I ask his family how long this previous marriage lasted, or should I let it go and be grateful for the good and loving husband he was during our 27 years together? He was a widower with no kids and I was a widow when we met. What do you think?

NUMBER THREE IN ARIZONA

DEAR NUMBER THREE: Your husband may have been divorced from wife No. 1, or the marriage could have been annulled and he didn't think it "counted." While I agree that you should be grateful for the 27 happy years you spent together, I can't ignore the fact that such an important piece of information was withheld from you. If you have questions and think the family can answer them, you are entitled to know.

DEAR ABBY: My sister is difficult, and our relationship has been extremely rocky over the years. She insists upon doling out unsolicited advice and asking pointed personal questions about my finances, health, sex life, etc. I have told her more than once that these things are none of her business unless I choose to discuss them. Her response is she's "only trying to help."

Our mother died six months ago and my sister is again making overtures. I'm hesitant about speaking with her again because she's so volatile. I'll do it only if she respects my boundaries.

I am searching for the right words to tell her a relationship will work only if both parties respect each other, and that trust has to be earned. I'd appreciate any suggestions.

GUARDED SIBLING IN FLORIDA

DEAR GUARDED SIBLING: Please accept my condolences for the loss of your mother. I am unclear as to why you would want to accept the overtures from someone with whom you have such a difficult relationship. However, because you feel that it would be possible under your terms, my advice is to write her a letter and tell her you will be willing to try only under the circumstances you described to me. To do so would not be rude, and it will be interesting to see if she is able to comply.

DEAR ABBY: I'm being married next year and want to make sure I send written thank-you notes to everyone. I have been a diligent thank-you note writer for years.

Can you tell me what's the best way to get everyone's address? I have had problems with this in the past. I hate having to call and ask because the people always want to know why I want the information. Would it be OK to have as part of the wedding website a place where guests who attend can confirm their mailing address?

BRIDE-TO-BE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE: How do you plan to invite your guests to the wedding? Most brides send their invitations via U.S. mail, which requires the person's name, address and ZIP code on the envelope.

However, if you plan to issue your invitations online, then I see no reason you can't ask your guests to confirm their information on your wedding site. It wouldn't be a breach of etiquette.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

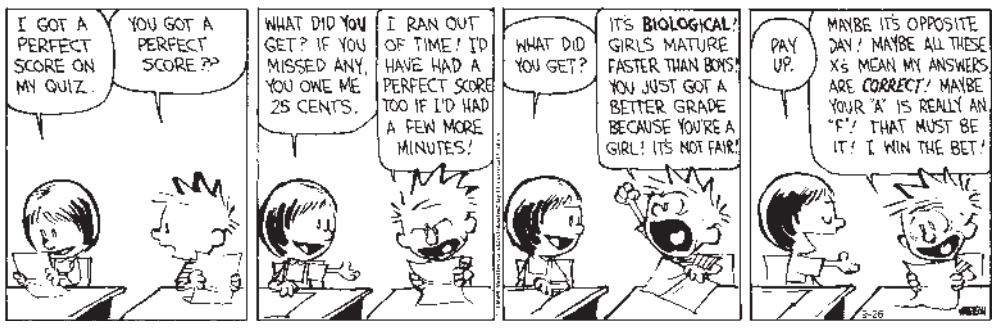
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GOT A PERFECT SCORE ON MY QUIZ.
YOU GOT A PERFECT SCORE ??
WHAT DID YOU GET ? IF YOU MISSED ANY, YOU OWE ME 25 CENTS.
I RAN OUT OF TIME ! I'D HAVE HAD A PERFECT SCORE TOO IF I'D HAD A FEW MORE MINUTES !
WHAT DID YOU GET ?
IT'S BIOLOGICAL ! GIRLS MATURE FASTER THAN BOYS ! YOU JUST GOT A BETTER GRADE BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL ! IT'S NOT FAIR !
PAY UP.
MAYBE IT'S OPPOSITE DAY ! MAYBE ALL THESE X's MEAN MY ANSWERS ARE CORRECT ! MAYBE YOUR 'A' IS REALLY AN 'F' ! THAT MUST BE IT ! I WIN THE BET !

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE I'M UNDER THE WATCHFUL GAZE OF A PREDATOR-LIKE VIGILANTE.
PERHAPS IF I MIND MY P's AND Q's, HE'LL MOVE ALONG.
FEAR NOT, CITIZEN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WAS ON THE PHONE FOR SIX HOURS WITH YOUR STUPID CUSTOMER SERVICE BEFORE MY CALL WAS DROPPED ! SO I CAME HERE TO COMPLAIN !
THAT IS OUTRAGEOUS AND UNACCEPTABLE !
FINALLY ! SOMEONE WHO SEES IT MY WAY !
HEY, HAL, THIS JERK WANTS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT US.
THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS AND UNACCEPTABLE !

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

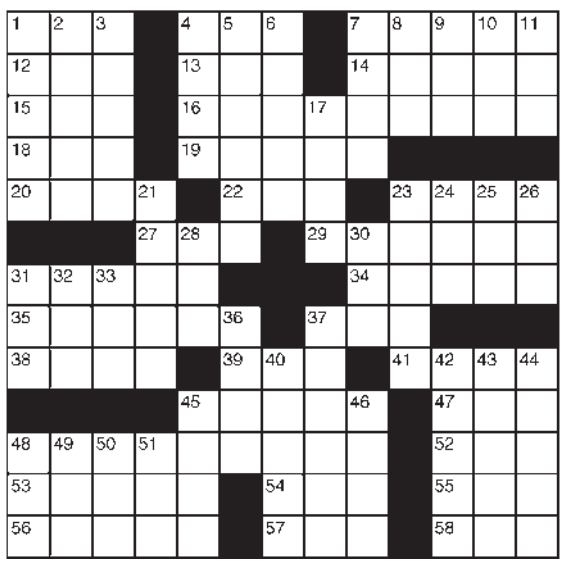
ACROSS
1 Ecol. org.
4 Branch
7 Country once called Dahomey
12 Felonious flight
13 Carnival city
14 Spry
15 Underwear with underwire
16 Pleasant lingering effect
18 Autumn mo.
19 Windtossed
20 Expert
22 Before
23 Emanation
27 Ar follower
29 Roof beam
31 Mennonite
34 Feudal figure
35 Less logical
37 Round Table address
38 Low, sideless cart
39 — out a living
41 Pound of poetry
45 Fades away
47 Charged bit
48 Consequence
52 Play on words
53 Raccoon's cousin
54 Actor McBride
55 Sch. grp.
56 One living abroad
57 Barbie's pal
58 "Of course"

DOWN
1 Knee counterpart
2 Shrivel with heat
3 Ritzy violin
4 Speedy steed
5 GIs' weaponry
6 Engine
7 Hoedown site
8 Early bird?
9 Zilch
10 U.N. workers' grp.
11 Fresh
17 Basin accessory
21 Piquant
23 Blazing
24 Multipurpose truck
25 — U.S. Pat. Off.
26 Exist
28 Yon maiden
30 Muhammad or Laila
31 Toss in
32 Scratch
33 "— picture paints 1,000 words ..."
36 Paper quantity
37 Boil
40 Talent
42 Energetic
43 Mail carrier's beat
44 Nicole Smith and Deveare Smith
45 Legal document
46 Leg part
48 Blackjack component
49 "Back to the Future" star
50 Spigot
51 Greek vowel

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	C		B	R	I	T		L	A	L	D
O	R	R		R	U	N	F		A	C	E	F
C	R	E	D	E	N	C	E		W	A	G	E
		S	C	W		A	N	T	S	I	E	R
S	O	C	C	E	R		Y	O	U			
A	P	E		D	A	M		N	I	C	A	D
G	E	N	T		J	U	G		T	R	L	E
A	N	I	I	C		G	U	I		E	L	F
			S	O	Y		N	O	B	O	D	Y
P	E	A	S	O	U	P		M	I	S		
L	U	_	U		C	R	E	A	T	O	R	S
C	R	I	E		C	O	A	T		T	O	C
D	O	T	S		A	F	R	O		E	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 9-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Milian, 33; Serena Williams, 33; Jim Caviezel, 46; Olivia Newton-John, 66.

Happy Birthday: There is no time to waste. Prepare to take advantage of the opportunities that head your way. This is a year to learn, experience and gather knowledge that will help you advance. There is no looking back once you begin, so take a deep breath and forge ahead. Trust in you and your abilities, not what others want you to believe. Your numbers are 5, 13, 25, 28, 31, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make suggestions and you will be able to bring about favorable lifestyle changes that include an unusual relationship you have with someone. A social function will offer insight into a worthwhile investment. Be ready to take action. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your eyes open and your ears tuned in to conversations that offer insight into the economy and current job market. An emotional plea will leave you with an unexpected choice. Don't take on more than you can handle. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to your game plan regardless of any temptation you face. It's important to follow through and be accepting if you want to avoid complaints and interference. Refuse to let an emotional incident cloud your vision. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make positive changes at home and avoid conversations that will leave you in a vulnerable position. Trying to please everyone will result in being taken for granted. Pursue the people, places and interests that bring you the most satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make a move that will be rejuvenating. Use good judgment, but don't lose sight of what makes you happy. A change of pace, scenery or environment will spark ideas that motivate you to take charge of your life and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work hard and do your best. Set your goals high and refuse to stop until you are satisfied with your progress. Don't take no for an answer or give in to someone who has ulterior motives. Make choices based on your needs. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be difficult to pin down. Too many interests will keep you moving, but might also cause friction with someone who wants your undivided attention. Attending an industry event will result in an opportunity to meet someone who can help you advance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your imagination lead you forward, but don't get carried away. Look for practical ways to complete your plans and you will avoid being caught in a no-win situation. Uncertainty regarding a friendship will fester if you disagree. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An energetic approach to whatever you do will impress someone you want to do business with. Unusual suggestions will result in a contribution from someone with business savvy. Lay down your strategy, make a proposal and you will strike a deal. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider the consequences before you make a move or take a risk. Don't let anyone pressure you into something you don't want to do. Focus on easing your stress and taking better care of your health. Avoid situations that are unpredictable. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be faced with a choice. Don't avoid what has to be dealt with now. The changes you make will help you get ahead professionally and give your reputation and your confidence a boost. Invest in yourself and your skills. ✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Secure your financial position. Sign deals and invest in growth and better money management. Work quietly and do whatever it takes to avoid an argument. Offer peace, patience and love to someone who has always supported your actions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a mediator. You are creative, caring and compassionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4				2		
			4	7	3			
8								5
	2		3		4		9	
	8						1	
	7		9		6		8	
6								4
			1	5	9			
		1				3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	1	9	6	5	7	4
4	7	9	3	2	5	8	1	6
6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
9	2	6	5	1	7	4	8	3
8	4	1	9	3	2	6	5	7
3	5	7	4	6	8	2	9	1
1	6	3	2	8	9	7	4	5
7	8	4	6	5	1	9	3	2
5	9	2	7	4	3	1	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5.25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TOLL PLAZAS Solution: 8 letters

T	C	G	T	R	U	P	P	R	E	P	A	I	D	E
H	I	M	A	O	O	D	E	L	A	Y	S	T	X	M
G	L	O	T	T	L	I	C	E	N	S	E	I	E	A
I	B	V	S	A	E	I	R	N	S	K	T	P	G	I
E	U	E	R	R	H	P	I	E	C	R	E	A	R	N
W	P	A	S	E	E	F	S	I	E	G	Y	S	A	L
F	M	Y	V	P	W	U	T	D	N	Ⓒ	Ⓐ	Ⓢ	Ⓗ	I
P	A	H	T	O	O	B	N	A	Y	Y	W	T	C	N
C	C	R	L	H	A	O	H	T	A	A	H	A	T	E
I	H	S	E	R	P	C	E	X	L	W	G	T	I	V
F	I	K	R	S	R	E	L	E	P	L	I	I	D	R
F	N	I	N	E	R	E	S	U	S	L	H	O	E	E
A	E	A	T	G	S	S	T	N	I	O	P	N	R	S
R	R	N	S	R	E	V	I	R	D	T	R	U	C	K
T	I	S	O	P	E	D	E	L	L	I	B	A	R	S

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ATM, Axles, Barrier, Bars, Billed, Booth, Cash, Charge, Credit, Delays, Deposit, Display, Drivers, Exit, Fare, Fees, Gate, Greet, Highway, Houses, Interchange, License, Machine, Mainline, Move, Operator, Pass, Points, Prepaid, Public, Ramp, Serve, Slow, Station, Stop, Ticket, Tollway, Traffic, Transponder, Truck, Type, User, Vehicle, Weight

Yesterday's Answer: Twitter

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Scuba Diving Instructor: $6.05/hr. Scuba diving instructor certification and fluency in Korean required. Must be willing to live and work on Tinian. E-mail resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL BUILDING
with BUSINESS and APARTMENTS

GOOD LOCATION

If interested, call Mr. Woo at 483-3578

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Commercial Cleaner
Must have 5 years experience.

Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville Saipan, MP 96950

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) **Baker** – Must have at least 5 years working experience. Flexible time schedule. Salary $6.50/hr.
(1) **Assistant Baker** – Must have at least 2 years working experience. Flexible time schedule. Salary $5.75/hr.
(1) **Bakery Helper** – Must have at least 2 years working experience. Flexible time schedule. Salary $5.55/hr.

Send resume to P.O. Box 501540 or apply at DanDan Bakery, Danday R. Tel.: 288-8288

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
CHEAP CUT BBQ
is looking for
(1) COOK
Email:merchantthompson@yahoo.com

IPod, IPad & IPhone Repair
We unlock all Smart Phone
We also repair Samsung S3 & S4
We Buy & Sell Used IPod & IPhone
Please call **233-5641**
Calvatron
Open: Monday-Saturday
9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment
235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

***JWS* AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.**

(1) ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Bachelor's Degree in Business with 3 years purchasing and administrative support experience, including one to two years equivalent to an Accounting Assistant, involving posting financial data to ledgers, preparing invoices, billings and /or vouchers, record keeping and filing systems. Have knowledge in automated accounting system preferably Wintac Software.

E-mail resume to:
jwssaipan@pticom.com or
tonys.jwssaipan@pticom.com or
Submit To WH-Door 2, Dotse PL., Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan;
Tel No. (670) 235-5572/4

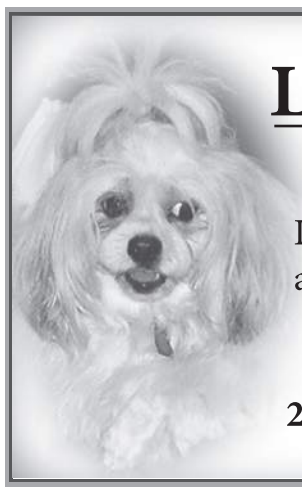
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) Electrician
Qualification: 3 years progressive work experience as electrician in industrial, commercial and residential building electrical works. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Application may be obtained and submitted to our security office located on the ground floor, south wing. Completed application must be received by 5:00 p.m., September 26, 2014 to be considered.

Fiesta Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer



LOST DOG

Breed: **Shih Tzu**
Last seen Wednesday, afternoon at Finasisu.

If found, please call
234-8601 or 285-7445

IT&E
Life in Motion

JVA# 2-2014-9

IT&E needs the following positions for the Customer Operations department:

- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Saipan)
- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Tinian)
- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Rota)
- Telemarketers (On-Call Basis)

The Universal Service Representative serves as the first line of contact with IT&E customers, receiving and initiating residential, business, government, Internet, and cellular customer contacts by telephone, personal contact and correspondence.

Minimum qualifications for the Part-Time Universal Service Representative:

- High School Graduate with evidence of computer technical education or training;
- Two years of work experience in a customer service oriented business environment

In addition, the Part-Time Universal Service Representative must have:

- computer and customer service experience;
- excellent telephone etiquette and English communication skills;
- logical thought process;
- friendly and outgoing personality;

The Telemarketers are primarily responsible for outbound telemarketing and/or survey for various markets.

Minimum qualification for the Telemarketers:

- High School Graduate or equivalent

In addition, the Telemarketers must be able to:

- pleasantly and professionally speak with individuals and ask scripted questions
- listen attentively
- use a computer proficiently
- work flexible hours
- work on-call when needed

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by Monday, September 29, 2014 and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, IT&E provides equal opportunity to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex/gender, age, religion, veteran status, or disability. IT&E is a Drug Free Workplace.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 DRAFTSMAN

College degree required with (5) years minimum experience in a construction firm. Must have strong knowledge in analysis of local building codes, able to create rough and/or detailed plans that show foundations, reinforcement, structures and other elements of design. Must be computer literate with latest computer software including computer-aided drafting (CAD) and have thorough knowledge in preparing as-built and shop drawings.

Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aiconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc. PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.

Closing date: September 30, 2014

Misamis Construction
Now Hiring

- Carpenters
- Masons
- Painters
- Electricians
- Steel worker – Welders
- Plumbers
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Building Maintenance Repairers
- AC Technicians
- Domestic Worker
- Commercial Cleaner

Local applicants are encouraged to apply – Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email:
misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

WHATZIT Solution: Over my dead body

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

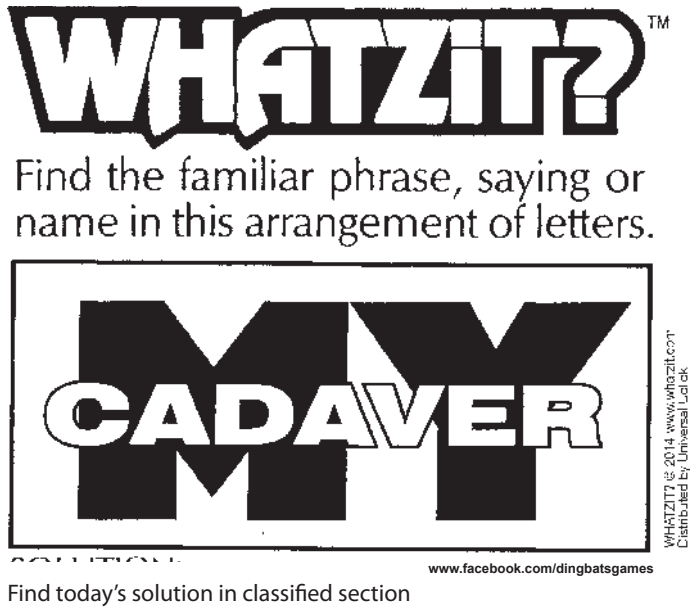
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Kershaw, Dodgers beat Giants win, West title

LOS ANGELES (AP) —Clayton Kershaw tied a career high with his 21st victory, Yasiel Puig homered to highlight a four-run sixth inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL West title with a 9-1 victory over the second-place San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night.

Fittingly, the Dodgers claimed their second straight division title behind Kershaw (21-3), the probable NL Cy Young Award winner and MVP candidate who has been the catalyst behind their success this season.

He didn't pitch lights out - getting called for a balk and wild pitch - and he committed a throwing error in the seventh but he did a little bit of everything, including hitting and fielding to ensure the Dodgers' celebrated in front of their longtime rivals.

Kershaw allowed one run and eight hits in eight innings, struck out 11 and walked none in his last start of the regular season, having won his final seven starts. He became the first player to lead the major leagues in ERA (1.77) in four consecutive seasons.

Kershaw tied his career high in wins from 2011. The Dodgers are 23-4 in his 27 starts this season.

"MVP" chants directed at Kershaw from the sellout crowd of 53,387 broke out throughout the game, but grew loudest after he retired the side in the eighth, striking out two.

Juan Uribe went 2 for 4 and drove in three runs, and Carl Crawford was 2 for 2 with three runs scored and two RBI for Los Angeles.

The Dodgers snapped a 1-1 tie in the sixth, with Puig hitting a leadoff homer off Tim Hudson (9-13) to get things started. Crawford's two-run double off Javier Lopez made it 4-1 and Uribe followed with a RBI single off Jean Machi for a 5-1 lead.

Puig showed off his arm in the top of the seventh. Pinch-hitter Matt Duffy singled to center, where Puig grabbed the ball, spun around and fired to third, nailing Gregor Blanco as he slid in.

The Dodgers tacked on four more runs in the eighth, when Giants pitchers walked four batters and hit another.

The loss again kept the Giants from clinching a playoff berth.

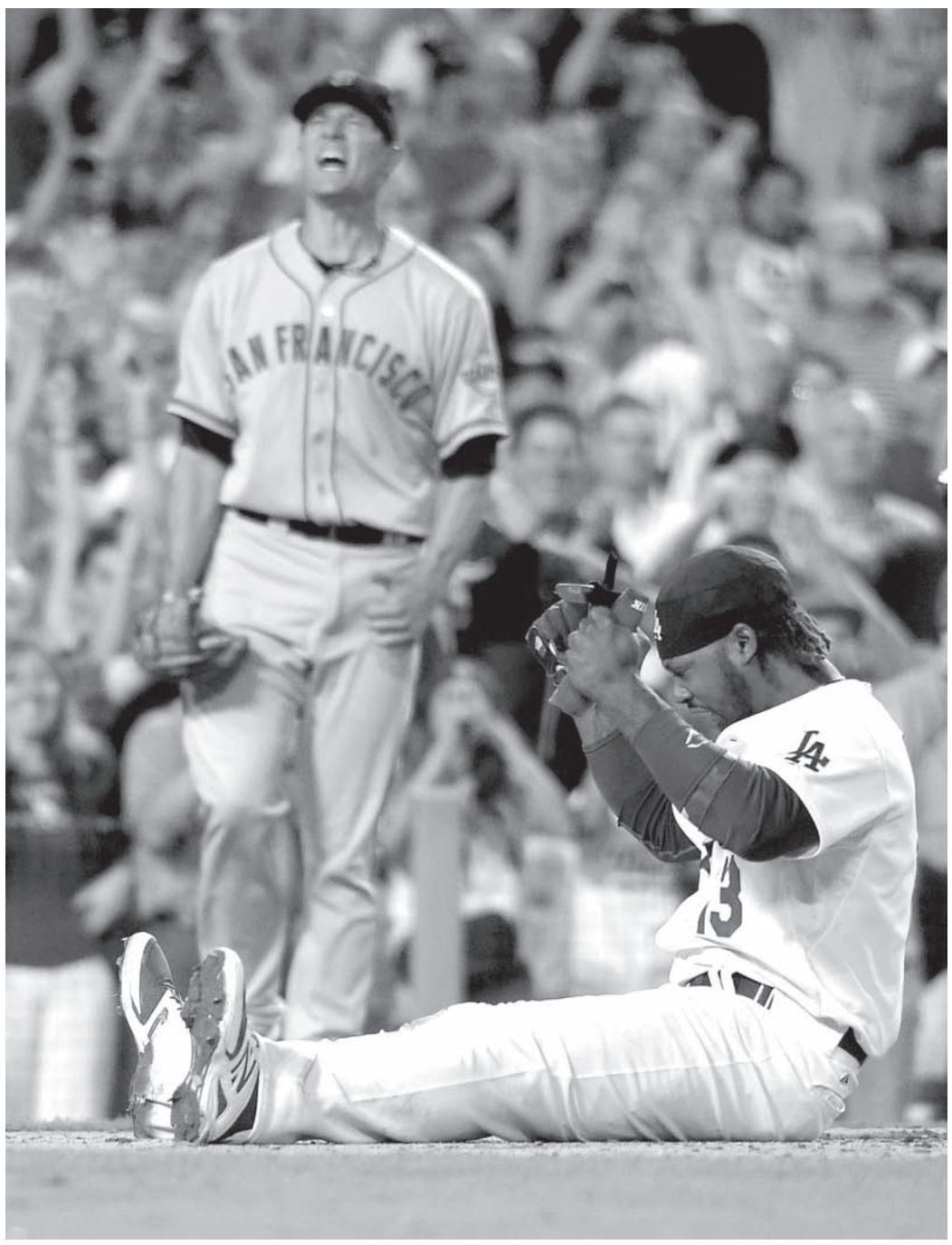
Hudson gave up three runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings, struck out four and walked one.

Kershaw tied the game 1-1 with his first career triple in the fifth, scoring Crawford, who got hit in the left foot by a pitch and then stole second. Kershaw chugged into third base standing up.

The Giants led 1-0 when Hunter Pence grounded into a fielder's choice along the third base line in the third. Joaquin Arias scored from third, narrowly beating the throw from Uribe.

Kershaw had a bit of a messy third, when he allowed four baserunners, his most of any inning. With runners on first and second he was called for a balk, allowing the runners to move up. Kershaw showed quick reflexes facing his next batter. Hudson hit a comebacker and Kershaw, down on his right knee with his back toward the plate, reached around, backhanded the ball and threw to first for the out.

Kershaw gave up a pair of two-out singles in the sixth and the runners moved up on his wild pitch. He induced a groundout to the mound from Chris Dominguez to end the inning.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez, right, celebrates after scoring on a single by Juan Uribe as San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Javier Lopez stands near during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Orioles 9, Yankees 5

In New York, Derek Jeter and the New York Yankees were eliminated from postseason contention, beaten by Nelson Cruz and the AL East champion Baltimore Orioles 9-5 Wednesday.

Jeter went 0 for 4 as the designated hitter in his next-to-last game at Yankee Stadium.

The Yankees missed the playoffs in consecutive years for the first time since 1992 and '93. The only other time New York missed the playoffs during the retiring captain's 20-season big league career was in 2008.

Cruz had four hits as the Baltimore remained 2 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Angels for the best record in the AL.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta struck out 10, leading the Chicago Cubs over St. Louis.

The Cardinals kept their 1½-game lead over Pittsburgh in the NL Central. The loss assured NL East champion Washington will open a division series at home.

Arrieta (10-5), coming off a one-hit shutout against Cincinnati last week, pitched two-hit ball for seven innings. He also had a two-run triple off John Lackey (3-3).

Hector Rondon got his 27th save.

Braves 6, Pirates 2

In Atlanta, Andrew McCutchen homered for Pittsburgh's only runs, and the Pirates missed a chance to move up in the NL Central race, falling to Atlanta.

The Pirates, who clinched a playoff spot on Tuesday night, stayed 1½ games behind division-leading St. Louis. Pittsburgh lost for only the fourth time in its last 19 games.

Pirates catcher Russell Martin left in the fifth inning with tightness in his left hamstring.

Jeff Locke (7-6) allowed six runs and 13 baserunners—eight hits and five walks—in only four innings.

Julio Teheran (14-13) hit a two-run single as Atlanta ended a five-game losing streak. Craig Kimbrel struck out McCutchen and Travis Snider with two on for his 45th save.

Tigers 6, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Justin Verlander pitched eight impressive innings and the Detroit Tigers clinched a postseason spot, rallying after benches cleared in the sixth inning to beat the White Sox.

The Tigers lead the AL Central by two games over Kansas City. Detroit was assured of at least a wild-card spot when Seattle lost.

White Sox ace Chris Sale was breezing along with a shutout when he hit Victor Martinez with a pitch in the sixth. The two exchanged words and the benches and bullpens emptied.

Ian Kinsler gave Detroit the lead with an RBI double in the seventh off Javy Guerra (2-4).

Verlander (15-12) allowed a run and seven hits.

Indians 6, Royals 4

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes hit a three-run homer, Michael Brantley got three more hits and the Cleveland Indians stayed in the AL wild-card chase for at least one more day by beating Kansas City.

A loss would have eliminated the Indians, but after blowing a 3-0 lead, they rallied and moved within 3½ games of Kansas City and Oakland in the wild-card standings. There are four days left in the regular season.

The Royals, who haven't made the playoffs since 1985, fell two games behind first-place Detroit in the AL Central.

Zach McAllister (4-7) pitched 2 1-3 scoreless innings and Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

The Indians took the lead in the fifth off rookie Brandon Finnegan (0-1).

Blue Jays 1, Mariners 0

In Toronto, Mark Buehrle pitched eight shutout innings to reach 200 innings for the 14th consecutive season, Ryan Goins drove in the only run and the Toronto Blue Jays pushed Seattle closer to playoff elimination.

Buehrle (13-10) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out 10, one shy of his season high. He left to his second standing ovation of the night after Chris Taylor's leadoff single in the ninth. He finished the season with 202 innings.

Aaron Sanchez came on and picked off pinch-runner James Jones, then got the final two outs for his third save in as many chances. The game was played in a brisk 1 hour, 59 minutes.

The Mariners lost their fifth straight and have dropped nine of 12. Rookie Taijuan Walker (2-3) pitched his first career complete game, giving up four hits.

Angels 5, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Howie Kendrick doubled and drove in three runs, and the AL West champion Los Angeles Angels held off the playoff-hopeful Oakland Athletics.

The A's and Kansas City are tied for the AL wild-card spot.

Angels star Mike Trout left the game before the top of the fifth with a stomach illness.

Hector Santiago (6-9) worked 5 1-3 innings for his first outing longer than two innings in three starts. Huston Street, the seventh Los Angeles pitcher, finished for his 17th save with the Angels and 41st overall.

A's starter Jon Lester (16-11) gave up five runs in seven innings. He was winless in three starts against the Angels this year.

Brewers 5, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Kyle Lohse pitched a two-hitter and drove in a run as the Milwaukee Brewers forestalled elimination from the playoffs with a win over Cincinnati.

Lohse (13-9) gave up a pair of singles by Jack Hannahan in his second shutout of the season.

Rickie Weeks had a pair of singles and drove in a run, and Carlos Gomez had an RBI double off Daniel Corcino (0-2).

Phillies 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Kyle Kendrick pitched seven innings, had three hits and drove in a run, Jonathan Papelbon closed in his first appearance since being suspended and the Philadelphia Phillies beat Miami.

Papelbon, who completed a seven-game suspension Sunday, earned his 38th save in 42 chances with a scoreless ninth. Major League Baseball penalized Papelbon because he made a lewd gesture and then bumped an umpire after blowing a save against the Marlins on Sept. 14.

Kendrick (10-13) broke a scoreless tie with two outs in the seventh when he doubled home Darin Ruf. Kendrick also singled twice and hiked his average from .095 to .136.

Marlon Byrd put the Phillies ahead to stay when he hit a one-out RBI single in the eighth off Chris Hatcher (0-3).

Red Sox 11, Rays 3

In Boston, Anthony Ranaudo pitched seven strong innings, and Garin Cecchini hit his first major league home run to help the fifth-place Boston Red Sox beat the fourth-place Tampa Bay.

Ranaudo (4-3) allowed two runs on six hits and a walk, striking out two to snap a three-game losing streak. The victory was the 69th of the season for the defending AL East and World Series champions, who need one more win to beat their total from 2012—their only season under Bobby Valentine.

Jake Odorizzi (11-13) allowed five runs in three-plus innings.

Rangers 5, Astros 1

In Arlington, Scott Feldman wouldn't second-guess his decision to sign with the Houston Astros last winter.

His teammates didn't score a run Wednesday night while he was allowing only one through six innings of a 5-1 loss to the Texas Rangers.

Games like that contributed to what will be a season record of 8-12 despite a 3.74 ERA, the best in his 10-year career.

"I think I made the right decision," he said. "I enjoy coming in here every day and being around these guys, and the coaching staff has been great. Overall, I kept the team in the game (Wednesday), but the other guy was better."

better."

The "other guy" was Lisalverto Bonilla, who became the first pitcher in Rangers history to win his first three career starts.

Suns, Bledsoe agree to 5-year, $70 million deal

AP

Eric Bledsoe has reached an agreement on a five-year, $70 million contract with the Phoenix Suns.

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns and point guard Eric Bledsoe have reached agreement on a five-year, $70 million contract, capping a long, sometimes-tense negotiation to keep him in the desert.

The deal Wednesday is considerably more than the four-year, $48 million the Suns initially offered but well below the five-year, $80 million-plus maximum contract Bledsoe's agent, Rich Paul, sought for the restricted free agent.

The sides didn't budge in the negotiations until talks finally progressed in the last few days.

"All summer, I knew that I really would be most comfortable coming back to Phoenix because of the great fans, my Suns teammates and our coaches," Bledsoe said in a statement released by the team. "I am very happy it was able to work out this way."

Bledsoe faced an Oct. 1 deadline to sign a $3.7 million qualifying offer to play for the Suns this season, then become an unrestricted free agent.

"I learned long ago that it doesn't matter how stormy the sea is as long as the ship comes in, and today we are thrilled that the ship has come in and Eric will remain a Sun for a long time," Suns president of basketball operations Lon Babby said in a statement. "He will be an integral part not only of our basketball team, but our Phoenix community."

The Suns see Bledsoe as a critical part of their double point-guard system. He missed much of last season after undergoing his second surgery to repair a meniscus in his right knee.

When Bledsoe teamed with fellow point guard Goran Dragic last year, the Suns won two-thirds of their games. But injuries kept the duo apart, most significantly the knee surgery.

While the Suns coveted Bledsoe's skills - particularly his drives to the basket and defense - as well as his obvious upside, they balked at giving the 24-year-old guard a max contract but felt highly enough of him to give a rich deal.

"We are thrilled Eric Bledsoe will be in a Phoenix Suns uniform for years to come," general manager Ryan McDonough said. "Eric is one the most exciting and dynamic two-way players in the league. He played very well for us on both ends of the floor last season and we feel he is well on his way to establishing himself as one of the elite players in the NBA."

Despite Bledsoe's knee injury, the Suns won a surprising 48 games and just missed the playoffs.

Bledsoe was the backup to Chris Paul with the Los Angeles Clippers before the Suns acquired him and Caron Butler in a three-team trade that sent journeyman forward Jared Dudley to the Clippers and a second-round draft pick to Milwaukee.

Bledsoe had knee surgery in October of 2011, then again last January.

Cassel, Fusco finished for season with Vikings

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota Vikings quarterback Matt Cassel will miss the season with broken bones in his left foot, and right guard Brandon Fusco will also be out for the rest of the year because of a pectoral muscle injury.

The Vikings placed Cassel and Fusco on injured reserve Wednesday. Both players were hurt Sunday at New Orleans.

''You work so hard in the offseason to give yourself an opportunity to go out there and play, and then to have it happen this early in the season, especially with the belief that I have in this team, the thoughts of going on and having a lot of success this year, and for it to happen this early is super devastating to me," Cassel said.

''At the same time, now all your focus goes into your rehab and getting better and trying to get back on the field."

Teams have the option of placing one player on injured reserve with the intent to bring him back to practice after six weeks and to play in games after eight, but they saved that designation for now.

Cassel was replaced by rookie Teddy Bridgewater, and Christian Ponder will be the backup moving forward. Vladimir Ducasse filled in for Fusco.

Coach Mike Zimmer said the team considered using that designation for tight end Kyle Rudolph, who had surgery to repair a sports hernia on Tuesday.

But the initial prognosis after surgery is a little more promising and Zimmer said the team believes Rudolph could be ready to go sooner than the eight weeks he would be required if he was on injured reserve.

''We're anticipating that it's not going to be that long," Zimmer said.

Quarterback McLeod Bethel-Thompson and tight end Ryan Otten were signed to the practice squad. Tight end Chase Ford and offensive lineman Austin Wentworth were elevated from the practice squad to the active roster.

Linebacker Chad Greenway also played in New Orleans with a broken left hand and aggravated a rib injury during the game. His status for this Sunday against Atlanta is uncertain, meaning the Vikings could be without five starters from their lineup in the season opener.

Manibusan clinches SGA August Ace of the Month

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Former Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan clinched the Saipan Golf Association August Ace of the Month to earn a spot in SGA's finale tournament set in January 2015.

James Nelson actually topped the August 31 event at the Marianas Country Club Golf Course, but he already won the SGA February Ace.

Manibusan, who is one of SGA's founders and the group's handicap director, placed second to claim the August Ace, while Rick Kautz finished third. Scores were not available at press time.

Manibusan now joins SGA Ace of the Month winners Nick Sablan (January), Nelson (February), Alex Tudela (March), Das Krishnan (April), Frances Sablan (May), Greg Sablan (June) and Jung Eun Teack (July).

Closest to the pin winners were Juan L. Babauta (Hole No. 6), Greg Sablan (Hole No. 8) and Juan Pan Guerrero (Hole No. 16). Juan Babauta (Hole No. 2) and Kautz (Hole No. 11) were the longest drives winners.

The SGA-organized tournaments will continue with the September Ace on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course. Show time is at 9:30am with the opening tee starting 30 minutes after.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Edward Manibusan, right, seen here with the first place trophy in the Super Senior Flight of the 2014 Tournament of Champions and TOC chair Ben Babauta, took the Saipan Golfers Association's August Ace of the Month title.

Tom Watson's last Ryder Cup hurrah

GLENEAGLES, Scotland (AP)—Phil Mickelson has played in the Ryder Cup more times than any American. His experience is such that recent captains have leaned on him for observations on everything from pairings to picks. That wasn't the case with Tom Watson at the helm.

In the week leading up to Watson making his three wild-card picks, Mickelson was asked if the 65-year-old captain had reached out to him. The answer was no, without elaboration.

Then, as if to make a point, Mickelson reached into his pocket for his phone, glanced at it and replied, "Still no."

Watson might not need any help to find a winning formula for the Ryder Cup. One reason the PGA of America took a chance on the oldest captain ever in the Ryder Cup was his history in the matches.

The Americans haven't won on European soil since 1993, the last time Watson was the captain. He is adored in Scotland as much as any American golfer, having won the British Open four times on Scottish links. His three Senior British Open titles all were in Scotland.

In the four Ryder Cups that Watson played, only one was held in the United States.

One thing hasn't changed. Watson approaches these matches with a singular focus.

"The European team is loaded," Watson said. "But when the matches start at 7:35 on Friday morning, there's going to be quality of play going on. We'll just see who wins. I know our team is totally committed to bringing the cup back. I know that. And I'm going to do everything in my power to help them do that and set the stage for them."

Even so, the generation gap creates a dynamic that brings an element of curiosity to this Ryder Cup. Only two players on his team - Mickelson and Jim Furyk - were playing on the PGA Tour when Watson won the last of his 39 titles in 1998.

Watson has not been at a Ryder Cup since he was captain, and he was slightly defensive Wednesday when asked a series of questions about whether that might hurt him.

"No," he said flatly. "Because I've played in the Ryder Cup four times, and I've been a captain once. That's experience."

He also doesn't buy into the notion that he can't relate to a new generation of players, nine of whom were not even born when he won the first of his eight majors.

"I've answered that question before," Watson said. "They know I've played in the Ryder Cup. They understand I've been a captain. And they know that I know what they're doing. They have respect for me and I have the ultimate respect for them. We're on the same page. We're professional golfers. Doesn't matter how old you are or how young you are."

He certainly has the respect of European captain Paul McGinley, who referred to Watson as his "boyhood hero." McGinley went to college in San Diego and worked on a practice range when the PGA Tour came to town. McGinley used to ask his friends to cover for him when Watson played a practice round so he could watch.

As a captain?

"I haven't really been paying attention," McGinley said. "In regards to what Tom is doing with the team, I don't even know what groups he's going out with. I just know he's going to make some good decisions and he's going to have a strong American team out there and we are going to be prepared for that."

McGinley talks of a template that Europe has had for years.

The Americans have no such thing. They have won the Ryder Cup only twice since Watson last was captain - Brookline in 1999 when Justin Leonard made the "putt heard `round the world," and 2008 with Paul Azinger at the helm at Valhalla.

Watson already raised questions with his picks, stating that he wanted the hot hands and then passing over Chris Kirk, who had won the Deutsche Bank Championship the day before the captain's picks were chosen.

Will it matter who plays? Does it matter who is the captain?

"Bottom line is he's a professional golfer with a resume that is awfully deep," Zach Johnson said. "He's got a lot of sage advice and wisdom that I think we can certainly dig into and maybe learn from. And then you compound that with the fact that we're playing a country that he's had some success in - to put it mildly - I think it's terrific."

KAGMAN

From Page 32

Sparks' last 7 markers and finished the fourth quarter alone with 11 points. Santos' output was more than the entire Dream Team's production, as the latter was held to 10 points and had no player making more than 2 points in the fourth-quarter meltdown.

Santos and Lampkin top-scored for Kagman with 22 points each, while Shane De Leon Guerrero paced Dream Team with his 15 points, but was limited to 2 points in the final canto. Kwon and Richard Ada added 12 apiece.

Inter-gov't caging opening Monday

Meanwhile, the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter Government Basketball League will unfurl this Monday at the Ada gym.

Eight teams will be playing in the league that will have its opening ceremony at 6:45pm. The list includes Public School System, Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Northern Marianas Sports Association, Judiciary, Department of Public Safety, Feds, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Participating squads are asked to attend the opening rites as draws for the first two games will take place after the ceremony.

Kagman Sparks 66 – Jo. Santos 22, Lampkin 22, Muna 8, Butters 6, Je Santos 4, Yu 2, Palino 2.

Dream Team 58 – S. Deleon Guerrero 15, Kwon 12, Ada 12, Camacho 8, Ito 5, Sablan 2, Palacios 2, D. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-17, 26-30, 39-48, 66-58.

KABIRIEL

From Page 32

the CNMI Paddling Team that joined the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei last July.

His three runners were also in Pohnpei and represented the CNMI in long and middle distance races in the athletics competition. James won silver medals both in the half marathon and 1,500m races, while Eda did not medal, but just fell one notch short of making it to the podium. Eda placed fourth both in the 1,500m race and half marathon, while Ackerman was ranked 10th in the 1,500m, beating four others and sixth in the half marathon.

In local races, James barged into the Top 6 overall of the half marathon event in the 2014 Saipan Marathon, while Eda finished fourth overall and beat Kabiriel in the 10K, and Ackerman topped his age group of the same 10K race. Eda and Ackerman also towed Saipan Southern High School to the division title win in the 2014 NMA/McDonald's All Schools Championship against perennial champion Marianas High School and the powerhouse Kagman High School.

"I've been training and running with the three for the past two years and I've seen significant improvements from them. Jesse is more of a half marathon/marathon guy, while Dylan and Seiya are good in 5K and 10K," Kabiriel said.

The group trains four times a week with the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday practices focus on short, but fast running. Then every Saturday, the four runners cover 10 to 12 miles.

ROGOLIFOI

From Page 32

with a drive and passion to continue improving and developing the local youth baseball program," Rogolifoi said.

Rogolifoi is the current Executive Director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association and is a member of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Sports Hall of Fame. He has represented the CNMI in various basketball and baseball off-island tournaments and guided the local baseball squad to the gold medal in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan and the 2011Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Meanwhile, SLLBI board is requesting all managers, coaches, parents and other interested individuals to attend the October meeting at 9am at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex. Aside from the board election, other details of the upcoming league will be discussed.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Baltimore	95	63	.601	—
New York	81	77	.513	14
Toronto	81	77	.513	14
Tampa Bay	76	82	.481	19
Boston	69	89	.437	26
Central Division				
z-Detroit	88	70	.557	—
Kansas City	86	72	.544	2
Cleveland	83	76	.522	5½
Chicago	72	86	.456	16
Minnesota	68	90	.430	20
West Division				
x-Los Angeles	98	61	.616	—
Oakland	86	72	.544	11½
Seattle	83	75	.525	14½
Houston	69	90	.434	29
Texas	65	93	.411	32½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Washington	92	64	.590	—
Atlanta	77	81	.487	16
New York	76	81	.484	16½
Miami	75	82	.478	17½
Philadelphia	72	86	.456	21
Central Division				
z-St. Louis	88	71	.553	—
z-Pittsburgh	86	72	.544	1½
Milwaukee	81	77	.513	6½
Cincinnati	73	85	.462	14½
Chicago	71	88	.447	17
West Division				
x-Los Angeles	91	68	.572	—
San Francisco	85	73	.538	5½
San Diego	76	82	.481	14½
Colorado	66	93	.415	25
Arizona	63	96	.396	28

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paire FC notches second straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guinevere Borja had another hattrick to power Paire Football Club to a close 3-2 win over Tan Holdings FC in their U15 division game in the 2014 NMIFA Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Borja, who also scored three goals in their similar 3-2 triumph over MP United in the league's opening week, dropped two in the first half and the insurance in the second to give Paire its second victory in as many games. Tan Holdings FC dropped to a 0-2 record, failing to bounce back from its season debut loss to Matansa FC, 1-2.

Borja eluded Tan Holdings defenders early, as she earned her first goal in the second minute. Tan Holdings then evened up the match six minutes later off Krizel Mae Tuazon's goal, but Borja came out drilling another goal in the 20th to end the half with Paire holding on to a precarious lead.

In the second half, it took awhile for both teams to score with Borja completing her hattrick in the 65th and giving Paire cushion. A goal from Jessica Andebor three minutes later moved Tan Holdings within one anew, but it could not overhaul the deficit, as Paire hung tight on defense for a share of the division lead.

Shirley's FC 3, MP United FC 0

Shirley's joined Paire on top after a 3-0 shutout of MP United in the final girls U15 match last weekend.

Diana Maniacop led Shirley's second win in as many games after firing a pair of goals. She registered the first goal of Shirley's, which came from a 6-0 whipping of Kanoa FC, and also the last, finding the back of the net in the 29th and 52nd minute. Katherine Magat notched the other goal for Shirley's, hitting her target in the 31st minute.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire FC's Renita Fleming, left, steps in on defense to steal the possession from MP United's Gillian Villagomez during their girls U15 game in the opening week of the NMIFA fall league early this month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa FC 10, Kanoa FC 0

Matansa Football Club completed the three-way tie for the division lead after hammering Kanoa FC, 10-0.

Matansa peppered Kanoa with six goals in the first half en route to its second consecutive victory.

Angelica Sally fired up Matansa's offense, drilling the first goal in the match in the fourth minute and she went on to bag three more goals. Angelica's cousin, Lyka and Pinyarat Shankweiler chipped in two apiece, while Sunny Woo and Carla Ballesteros contributed one each.

CO-ED U12 MP United 6, Kanoa FC 0

Over at Hopwood's Pitch 1, MP United FC crushed Kanoa FC in the co-ed U12 division match, 6-0.

Eun Syu Hahn and Go Sekiguchi logged two goals apiece to pace MP United's second victory in as many games and hand Kanoa FC its second straight setback. Mark Esalan and Kaito Sawaki were the other scorers for MP United, which also blanked Paire, 6-0, in the opening week.

Esalan lit up the board first with his goal in the fourth minute, while Sawaki scored in the 16th minute. Sekiguchi made it a 3-0 lead in the 22nd minute, while Hahn hit back-to-back goals for their 5-0 advantage before the former closed out the scoring for MP United with his second goal (30th minute).

Tan Holdings FC 3, Paire 2

In the other co-ed U12 game, Tan Holdings FC nosed out Paire FC, 3-2.

Tan Holdings collected three goals in the first half to build enough cushion against Paire, which tried to mount a comeback in the second half, but fell short. Thaipi Austria canned two straight goals in a span of two minutes, scoring in the second and fourth minute, while John Guiller Canape added one more in the 23 rd to lift Tan Holdings to a 3-0 advantage.

Paire FC's Jamin Elliot made it a 1-3 deficit at the break with his goal in the 28th minute and threatened Tan Holdings after getting his second goal in the 56th. However, Tan Holdings neutralized Elliot and other Paire players in the remaining minutes of the second half to preserve the win, its second in as many matches.

Supportive mom helps Jericho reach dreams

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Jericho Cruz won't be able to achieve his dreams if not for the guidance and support of his mom Arlene.

Arlene was his son's first fan when the 22-year-old cager started playing for the then G-Rollers at the Garapan Basketball Court more than 10 years ago.

Fast forward to 2014, Cruz is set to make his debut in the 40th season of the Philippine Basketball Association—Asia's first pay-for-play and the second oldest continuously existing league in the world next to the NBA—with the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters.

Arlene said that she always remind her two sons—Jericho and the younger Jayjay—that they can achieve their dreams if they patiently work hard for it.

"Be it a small or big dream if you put your mind into it and you are determined to reach your goals, one day you can accomplish them. All you need is patience," said the elder Cruz, who now lives and work in Houston, Texas.

Jayjay is already in high school in Houston and also played basketball before shifting to powerlifting.

"I've supported Jericho's every step and decision that he made. As long as I know that it is the right decision, I'm behind him 100 percent. We've been like that ever since," Arlene said.

Arlene added that she was extremely happy when her son told him that he was chosen ninth overall by Rain or Shine in last month's PBA Rookie Draft.

"He told me, 'Mom, before I used to dream of playing in the PBA. Now, I'm already here.' That's why I'm happy on what he has accomplished. Not everyone is given with that kind of talent," Arlene said.

To be God fearing and respect to the elderly are also some of the values that she taught Jericho while he was growing up.

"It is important for a parent to support their kids' dreams, not what we wanted. Parents should always be behind the scenes," added Arlene, who last met Jericho when he was still playing for the Adamson University Falcons in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

"It was last year and we watched the UAAP opening where I also met his now wife, Mosh. I haven't seen them after that, so I'm very excited to play with my grandchild," she added.

KC CRUZ
Jericho Cruz, seen here watching a collegiate league game in the Philippines, said listening to his mother Arlene's advices and guidance help him achieve his dreams.

40 to join Asia Flow Series at PIC

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the 2014 Asia Flow Series will be pushing through with this weekend's tournament where 25 off-island competitors will be challenging 15 local riders.

Pacific Islands Club (PIC)-Saipan Sports, Entertainment and Activities director Glenn Policare said rains wouldn't stop Friday's preliminary round that will stretch to Saturday's finals. The qualifying round begins at 5pm, while the final day of the weekend tournament will be held from 9am to 6pm. The 25 off-island competitors are from Japan and Korea. This will be the fourth leg of the Asia Flow Series with the winners earning berths to the regional finals in Thailand.

Policare said that some of the riders trained for more than a year for this event.

Last year's men's flowboard champion Dan Westphal, runner-up Keoni Ichihara, and 2013 men's pro and men's open bodyboard titlists Ray Babauta and Francis Hartman are among the top local riders who are expected to win in their respective divisions.

Westphal and Ichihara will be carrying the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' flag in the 2014 Series Finals set from Oct. 3 to 4 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The winners of the Series Finals in Thailand will earn the right of representing the Asia-Pacific region to the Flowrider World Championships later this year at the Yas Waterworld in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Policare said they are expecting all participants to bring out their best form.

"Expect the participants to do rodeos, lazy 3s, kickflips, shuvits, backside AL's, fast plants and a long list of other tricks performed at the highest level," Policare said.

For more information, call Policare at 237-5148 or email him at glenn.policare@pic-saipan.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A local rider practices for this weekend's 2014 Asia Flow Series at the Pacific Islands Club.

Suns, Bledsoe agree to 5-year, $70 million deal

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Kabiriel trains new breed of runners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jack "Road Runner Bunny" Kabiriel is now passing the torch to new runners, as he is currently training three individuals for a regional tournament next month.

Kabiriel, who dominated local races for the past several years and had represented the CNMI in various off-island competitions, is mentoring youth runners Seiya Eda and Dylan Ackerman and Jesse James.

"They are preparing for the Oceania tournament," said Kabiriel, who is talking of the 2014 Oceania Cross Country Championships, which will be held in Guam on Oct. 16 and 17.

When asked why he decided to switch to coaching instead of continuously racing competitively because he still has the form and speed, Kabiriel said it's time to give others a chance and help the CNMI tap more athletes.

"The more we train young and upcoming runners, the more people we can bring to off-island competitions. Besides I don't want to stop running, so while I still do the thing I love I also help train runners. The training we do helps me too in preparing for the other sport I am involved in—canoe racing," said Kabiriel, who was part of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jack Kabiriel, left, seen here running with Seiya Eda, second left, and Jesse James, fourth left, was part of the team that won last year's NMA Christmas Island Relay in Marpi. Also on the squad were Manny Aaron and Tony Ichiou.

Kagman shatters Dream Team's bid for clean slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman Sparks rallied past Dream Team in the fourth quarter to steal a 66-58 win in their U21 game in the 2014 BANMI Youth League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Down by as much as 14 in the third period, 44-30, the Sparks went on a 27-10 scoring surge in the payoff canto to keep its unbeaten record in two games, while denying Dream Team's bid for back-to-back victories. Kagman won its season debut last week against Rollers A, 57-54, while Dream Team came from an impressive 79-49 victory over Star Magic before collapsing against the Sparks in the lone game last Wednesday.

Dream Team stretched a four-point halftime lead, 30-26, to double digits with Max Camacho and Dixon Kwon teaming up in several fastbreak baskets in the third period. Kwon scored 8 of his 12 points in the third, while Camacho chipped in 6.

Kagman was held to two field goals in the first half of the third canto before closing out strong and cutting the deficit to single digit at the end of that period, 39-48. Jason Lampkin brought the Sparks back into the game after drilling 6 of the team's last 10 markers.

The Kagman bigman picked up where he left off in the fourth canto, adding 8 more points, while Jonathan Santos delivered the killer blows, as he nailed the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Kagman Sparks' Mike Muna challenges the shot of Dream Team's Jason Palacios during the third quarter of their U21 game in the BANMI youth caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rogolifoi: Any board member qualified to head SLLBI

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. president Tony Rogolifoi will no longer seek reelection and believes any current board member of the group is qualified to lead SLLBI.

The SLLBI will be holding its general membership meeting on Oct. 4 and will also elect its board members in time for the 2015-2016 season, which is set to start in January next year.

Rogolifoi, the former Sports and Recreation Director when they were still under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, said he won't be back in time for the group's general membership meeting, but has advised the board to push through with next week's proceedings.

"I don't think I'll be back in time for the election. [So] I've advised Annie Flores to contact our vice president Joey Dela Cruz to conduct the meeting," Rogolifoi said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Flores is the SLLBI's longtime secretary.

"I would recommend [Dela Cruz] or any of the sitting board members to run the [Saipan Little League Baseball] program," said Rogolifoi, who is currently in the U.S. mainland, visiting his family.

He added that Dela Cruz has a broad knowledge of running the Little League program and knows how to coordinate with other leagues.

"Joey will be an ideal candidate for the presidency. Otherwise, the general membership should choose an individual

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An NSA Braves player picks up the ball during a game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball. SLLB, Inc. will have hold its general membership meeting next month and elect its board for the 2015-2016 season.